UKRAINIAN NEWS
УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВІСТІ

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Ukraine to battle Croatia in World Cup playoffs

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Crimean parliament gives Russian monopoly status

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New Ukrainian Cultural Centre opened in Calgary

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Manitoba signs cooperation agreement with Ukraine

(UkrNews/UNKB)—The governments of Manitoba and Ukraine have taken an important step toward greater co-operation by signing a memorandum of understanding to work toward mutual goals in areas such as economic development, education and culture.

The agreement was signed Oct. 8 by Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon and Ukraine Foreign Affairs Minister Anton Buteiko, reported the Manitoba government's information office. Filmon and Rural Development Minister Len Derkach were in Kyiv leading a Manitoba trade mission.

"The strong ancestral links between the people of Manitoba and Ukraine offer a unique opportunity to work together," Filmon said.

"We look forward to helping Ukraine realize its goals for political and economic reform. Both of our lands have much to gain from partnerships between our governments, industries and academic institutions."

The agreement lists 11 major priorities: economic development, energy, construction and infrastructure, agriculture, sustainable development and environment, science and technology, tourism, transportation, education, culture and sports, and public administration.

"The structure of Manitoba's economy is very similar to the structure of Ukraine's economy," Filmon added.

"Therefore, we are proposing to offer technology which can be used without adaptations for your needs."

To implement the memorandum of understanding, the governments of Manitoba and Ukraine have agreed to establish a steering committee of senior officials chaired by Derkach and a Ukrainian minister.

"We plan to emphasize private sector partnerships for trade and investment, as well as public sector linkages for economic development at the regional and community levels," Derkach said.

"We share the common objective of creating more jobs and prosperity and preserving our high quality of life through environmentally sound development."

During his visit Filmon met with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Valeriy Pustovoitenko, Deputy Speaker of Parliament V. Musiaka and other officials.

"We have so many opportunities to take advantage of Canadian knowledge, yet we are not doing so," noted Musiaka.

"Or, more accurately, good beginnings are not always followed up by us," he added.

Filmon noted the examples of the "New Holland" tractor manufacturer and the Bila Tserkva tractor factory in Kyiv Oblast as examples of Manitoba-Ukraine cooperation.

As for possible new projects, Filmon citing reconstruction of ageing highrise apartments, the so-called Khrushchovky, which were built during the Khrushchev era. This can also lead to the introduction of energy saving technologies.

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Ukraine's Armed Forces tour Canada

Audiences in 21 Canadian cities had the pleasure of watching the performances of the Ukrainian National Army Song and Dance Company during their first tour, which began Sept. 14 in Ottawa and ended Oct. 10 in Vancouver. Pictured above, female members of the Navy perform the "Dance of the Army and Navy" during the Edmonton concert, Oct. 6. For more on the tour, see Page 9.

Канадсько–український бібліотечний центр відкрито в Одесі

(Прес–центр «Південь»)—В Одеській обласній державній науковій бібліотеці ім. Горького вікдрито Канадсько–український бібліотечний центр. Його відкрито завдяки спільним зусиллям обласної бібліотеки ім. Горького та канадського «Товариства приятелів України».

На презентацію Канадсько–українського бібліотечного центру прийшло чимало представників місцевої української інтелігенції (письменники, активісти товариства «Просвіта» та Ліги українських жінок) та влада – Перший заступник Голови Одеської облдержадміністрації Сергій Гриневецький, керівник обласного управління освіти Роман Бродавко, заступник Голови Одеської міськради Олександр Прокопенко.

Презентацію відкрила директор Одеської обласної державної наукової бібліотеки ім. Горького Ольга Ботушанська. Вона зазначила – що відкриття центру в Одесі могло б і нестатися без значних зусиль української діяспори в Канаді.

Доречі, вже тепер до Канадсько–українського бібліотечного центру надійшло понад 20.000 книжок. Ці фонди поступово поповнюватимуться і далі.

Під новостворений Центр у будинку бібліотеки віддано окреме приміщення де всі бажаючі відтепер матимуть можливість ознайомитися з книжками, газетами, альманахами виданими в Канаді протягом останніх 100 років українською та англійською мовами.

Голова Одеської обласної організації Спілки письменників України Богдан Сушинський, в інтерв'ю нашому кореспондентові, позитивно оцінив факт відкриття Канадсько–українського бібліотечного центру саме в Одесі. «Ми мусимо зробити все можливе аби колись збережені діяспорою українські цінні видання повернулися на рідну землю. Подія в Одесі стала першим кроком на цьому шляху, адже серед представленої тут цінної літератури головна частка є з приватних бібліотек українців які тепер мешкають в Канаді».

Піднесений настрій цього дня був і у гостей з Канади. Довголітній член Товариства приятелів України в Канаді, письменник Степан Горлач у розмові з нашим кореспондентом сказав наступне: «З досвіду який я маю після відкриття інших подібних центрів — мушу сказати, що в Одесі подія була проведена найкращим чином. І це не тому, що я в Одесі, та хочу хвалити це місто з яких небудь причин. Моя думка є досить об'єктивною».

Степан Горлач повідомив, що буде подавати до Товариства приятелів України в Канаді пропозицію щодо відкриття подібного центру й в Українському домі міста Севастополя.

Перед присутніми на презентації виступили також представник комітету «Відродження» Канадського товариства приятелів України Іван Кузик та представник Товариства приятелів України Ярослав Семчишин (Торонто).

Канадсько–українські бібліотечні центри вже діють в Симферополі, Донецьку, Луганську та Харкові.

На презентації в Одесі обласній науковій бібліотеці було подаровано примірник англомовної Історії України Михайла Грушевського виданий в Канаді. Від Посольства Канади в Україні подаровано книжку про Канаду з цікавими кольоровими фотографіями.

Залю, де відкрито центр, освятили священики Української Православної Церкви Київського Патріярхату та Української Греко–католицької Церкви.

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Щоб як найскорше і як найкраще завести таку обслугу в Україні, щоби ця держава осягнула як найвищий рівень добробуту і зробила як найбільший поступ просимо всіх читачів посилати ваші щирі дари на цю адресу:

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Втрати української науки

Юрій Хлистун, *«Факти», Київ*

(КБУВ)—Міністерство України у справах науки та технологій провело анкетування ста провідних українських учених щодо нинішнього стану вітчизняної науки.

Оцінки стосуються тих галузей знань, у яких лишилося хоча б по одному фахівцю високої кваліфікації, спроможному більш–менш об'єктивно оцінити ситуацію. Вже є такі розділи знань, де таких фахівців не лишилося, наприклад, у деяких розділах генетики, експериментальної медицини, біологічної та хімічної фізики.

Фізика. Втрачено рівень робіт у фізиці поверхні, емісійній електроніці, фізиці іонних пучків та джерел. Збережено: фізика низьких температур, плазми та металів, теоретична фізика.

Астрономія. Нереально досягнути світового рівня в лазерній далекометрії, інфрачервоній астрономії, визначенні місцезнаходження за допомогою супутників. Нависла загроза над українським пріоритетом у світовій науці — декаметровій астрономії.

Енергетика. Лишається високим рівень робіт у кобінованому виробництві електроенергії та тепла, з ефективного використання газу в промислових установках. Котлобудівництвом в ліпшому разі на рівні російських розробок, досягнення передових позицій вимагає від 3–х до 10–и років.

Геологія. В усіх галузях, за винятком хімії нафто– та рудоутворення, вчорашні позиції втрачено.

Хімія. Електрометалургія, електросинтез, виробництво хлору, водню, технічна електрохімія відновленню не підлягають. Потрібно 3–5 років і немало коштів, щоб відновити електрокаталіз, біоелектрохімію, електродіяліз, тобто всю прикладну електрохімію. В інших напрямках хімії рівень нижчий за світовий та близький до російського.

Біохімія. В усіх напрямках, де недавно українські вчені були серед лідерів, позиції втрачено без перспектив відновлення у найближчі роки. Це біохімія вітамінів, ферментів, білків, ліпідів, регуляторів згортання крови, молекулярна імунологія.

Фізіологія. Це сфера науки, де повернути втрачені позиції особливо складно, а то й неможливо, навіть при достатньому фінансуванні. Втрата часу та кадрів головні причини втрати таких напрямків, як морфологія та функції структур мозку, їх роль у зміні поведінки, розвитку та патологій. Лише вивчення іонних каналів, рецепторів та мемоpанних ферментів експерти вважають задовільними.

Генетика. Очевидні відставання від світового рівня геноінженерних біотехнологій отримання ліків, вакцин, тест–систем, створення трансгенних тварин та рослин. Для досягнення світового рівня у генній терапії, найбільш перспективній галузі, що знаходиться на перетині генетики та медицини, може знадобитися не менше 5–7 років неорди–нарних зусиль. Один з напрямків, що активно розвивається на Заході, — біоспонсорні технології (створення миттєвих тест–систем для діагностики інфекційних захворювань, контролю за якістю продуктів харчування та товарів) лишилося в зародковому стані, хоч і має задатки для розвитку.

Медицина. Сильні школи збереглися лише в хірургії, передусім у хірургії судин і серця, сечостатевої системи, мозку, кишково–шлункового тракту. В онкології ще не втратило завойованих позиції раннє виявлення злоякісних пухлин, вивчення молекулярних механізмів їх виникнення. Не знаходить фінансової підтримки розробка природних іммуномодуляторів та протипухлинних вакцин. І лише відомі причини, пов'язані з Чорнобильською катастрофою, просунули напрацювання про вплив радіації на людину.

Кріобіологія та кріомедицина. Завдячуючи Харківській школі, в цих сферах досі зберігається світовий рівень досліджень, найперш у галузі отримання лікувальних засобів з ембріальних тканин, транспортування ліків у головний мозок, передпосівній обробці сімен. Але підтримувати рівень дедалі важче, і якщо не буде розв'язано проблем з фінансуванням, то втрата лідерства можлива вже найближчим часом.

Міністр України у справах науки та технологій Володимир Семиноженко наголошує на важливості та значенні для країни наукових шкіл, що зберегли свої позиції. У матеріязнавстві — це нові сплави, оптичні матеріяли, функціональні полімери, кераміка (зокрема, органічна, де Україна має абсолютний пріоритет). Під патронатом очолюваного ним міністерства, а також Української академії аграрних наук, знаходяться нові біотехнології у тваринництві. На думку Семиноженка, є надія, що Україна ввійде в п'ятірку країн, здатних втілювати на практиці ембріональне клонування високопродуктивних порід скоту, а це — запорука продовольчої незалеж–ности.

Рада національної безпеки та оборони України нещодавно розглянула стан справ у науково–технічній сфері і готує проєкти дієвих рішень. Зокрема, певну частку коштів, отриманих від продажу військової техніки, пропонується передавати для потреб наукових закладів та на створення технологій подвійного призначення. В українських амбасадах за кордоном, у першу чергу — в країнах «великої сімки», Росії та Китаї, мають з'явитися аташе або радники з наукових питань. Буде створено державну комісію з атестації державних науково–дослідних інститутів, висновки якої визначатимуть подальшу долю цих закладів. Галузеві науково–технічні програми будуть узгоджені із загальнодержавною Доктриною науково–технологічного розвитку України.

Бідних побільшало

Олег Ґванцов, *«День», Київ*

(КБУВ)—З нагоди Всесвітнього дня подолання бідності, що відзначався 17 жовтня, представництво ООН в Україні, Кабінет Міністрів України та інші державні органи провели в Києві конференцію, на якій було оприлюднено характерні статистичні відомості.

Якщо в 1990 році 11 відсотків населення України були бідними (в цілому по СРСР – 20–25 відсотків), то нині цей показник становить, за різними відомостями, від 25 до 37 відсотків. Причому, грошові доходи бідних становлять не більше 28% середнього рівня по країні. У цих людей, на думку економіста Е. Лібанової, нема ніяких шансів вийти з бідності, займаючись виключно легальними видами діяльности.

Динаміка валового національного продукту на душу населення має такий вигляд. У 1993 році в Україні він був нижчим, ніж у США, в 7,35 раза, ніж у країнах Европи – в 5.2 раза, ніж у Польщі – в 1,6 раза. За 1993–1996 роки цей показник в Україні скоротився в 1,6 раза і нині, за оцінками Світового банку, він уже нижчий, ніж в Китаї, Шрі–Ланці і навіть ніж у Папуа – Новій Гвінеї (на 15%).

Частка витрат на харчування (без придбання алкогольних напоїв, тютюнових виробів, витрат у ресторанах) становить в Україні в середньому 61%, тоді як у США – 9%, Польщі – 30%, Індії та Шрі–Ланці – 56%.

На думку проф. Ю. Саєнка з Інституту соціології, слабкість соціяльної політики в Україні наслідком дефіциту політичної волі її керівництва.

Хто найвища посадова особа в Києві — вирішить суд

(КБУВ)—У кількарічне протистояння між колишнім мером Києва Леонідом Косаківським та депутатами столичної ради втрутився суд. Він визнав неправомірним рішення про усунення Л. Косаківського з посади міського голови, що було прийняте на сесії міської ради наприкінці червня.

Це рішення суду ще оскаржується в касаційному порядку. Якщо ж воно лишиться в силі, всі ухвали міської ради, що з'явилися «після Косаківського», вважатимуться неправомірними, в тому числі й затвердження міського бюджету на нинішній рік. А поки що кабінет Л. Косаківського від проникнення туди господаря продовжує охороняти міліціонер.

Верховна Рада України ніяк не може прийняти Закон про столицю і покласти край суперечкам про управління Києвом, що склалися після прийняття Конституції України та Закону «Про місцеве самоврядування в Україні».

Crimean Soviet gives Russian language monopoly status

Tatars walk out of chamber in protest

(JF Monitor/RFE/RL)—In a move certain to raise tensions in Crimea and set the autonomous republic on a collision course with the central Ukrainian authorities, the Crimean parliament voted 56 to four on Oct. 15 to give Russian the status of "official language" on the territory of the autonomous republic.

The action was said to have been taken "in recognition of the historical, national, and cultural traditions of the population of Crimea." The Crimean Tatar parliamentary group, Kurultai, walked out in protest before the voting and denounced it afterward.

Crimea's draft constitution recognizes Ukrainian, Russian, and Crimean Tatar as state languages in Crimea, and designates Russian as the language of official communication until more people there have learned Ukrainian.

Precisely because articles relating to language and other key issues are highly contentious, Crimea's draft constitution has not been approved by the Ukrainian parliament and has not entered into force.

In adopting the decision, therefore, the Crimean parliament has tried to jump the gun and introduce one of the most contentious aspects of the draft constitution "by the back door."

The measure is certain to provoke an angry response from Kyiv and to create tensions within the peninsula, where the shortage of Ukrainian-language schools and newspapers and the lack of schools teaching in the Crimean Tatar language have all given rise to complaints of discrimination from the Ukrainian and Tatar minorities.

Deputies also voted to turn the clocks back from Kyiv time to Moscow time.

Oct. 17 Prime Minister Valeriy Pustovoytenko told journalists that Kyiv may annul the Crimean parliament's decision to put the peninsula in the same time zone as Moscow and to seek economic independence from Ukraine, Interfax reported.

Pustovoytenko added that Crimea could make progress "only together" with the rest of Ukraine.

Moscow reject Kyiv's offer of talks

Seizure of church compund leads to police violence

(JF Monitor)—Russia's Foreign Ministry on Oct. 9 turned down the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's Oct. 7 proposal for talks aimed at resolving an inter-church dispute that has degenerated into violence.

On Sept. 29, Russian law-enforcement agencies seized a large compound in Noginsk, Moscow region, from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchy (See Ukrainian News, Oct. 8-21).

The complex consists of a cathedral, a convent, a theological academy, a Ukrainian-language gymnasium, and the residency of the Archbishop who heads this Ukrainian diaspora church.

The police used clubs and other instruments of force in clearing the property, and arrested several Ukrainian priests and believers for "hooliganism." Moscow's Arbitration Court had recently taken the property away from the Ukrainian Church-Kyiv Patriarchate and turned it over to the Russian Orthodox Church.

In Kyiv, Ukrainian believers demonstrated outside the Russian embassy in protest.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchy supports Ukraine's independence.

Its diaspora church in Moscow region counts among its clergymen the veteran campaigner for religious rights, the Russian priest Gleb Yakunin.

He is a critic of the Russian Orthodox hierarchy's record of cooperation with the KGB and of its aspirations to control other Orthodox churches.

The Russian Church does not recognize the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchy, but instead supports its own affiliate in Ukraine.

UPA founding marked in Rivne

(UkrNews)—The 55th anniversary of the formation of the early detachments of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA in its Ukrainian acronym) was marked in Rivne, reported Ukrinform Oct. 13.

The forest region around Rivne was the first area of UPA activity when it was founded by Ukrainian nationalist Taras (Bulba) Borovets in 1942.

The partisan group was intitialy mobilized to fight the Nazi forces in Ukraine who were rounding up workers for forced labour and killing civilian Ukrainians.

After the Soviet Red Army drove the Germans out of Western Ukraine in 1944, UPA forces fought a guerilla war against the USSR for several years after the end of World War II.

Effective UPA action ended following the death in battle of Commander-in-Chief Taras (Chuprynka) Shukhevych in 1950, but isolated skirmishes were reported as late as 1955.

Surviving UPA veterans were sent to Soviet concentration camps were, in 1953, they staged massive protest actions on the death of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin.

Gang warfare rises in Crimea

(Eastern Economist)—The chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Defense and State Security Committee Volodymyr Mukhin said Oct. 16 that the worsening crime situation in Crimea is the result of "clashes between criminal gangs from Ukraine and Russia."

He noted that Crimean criminals have established close ties with international mafia groups.

Mukhin confirmed that a heroin transit from Turkey was uncovered this year in Crimea.

A week earlier, KrymTeploKomunEnergo General Director Valeriy Kozin was shot dead near his building in Simferopol by an unknown assailant.

The Interior Ministry's office in Crimea confirmed that four people were shot dead the previous in the villages of Yaskrave Pole and Tokarevo.

Two more men with gunshot wounds were taken to hospital.

A delegation from the Interior Ministry headed by minister Yuriy Kravchenko went to Crimea to begin their investigations into the crimes.

Nuclear plant workers protest

(RFE/RL)—At the Khmelnytsky nuclear power plant east of Lviv, workers have staged a series of rallies to demand payment of back wages, ITAR-TASS reported on Oct. 21. The 600 employees of the plant have not been paid since February. Their action threatens the continued operation of the plant, even though under Ukrainian law, workers at such facilities do not have the right to strike. A day earlier, some 50 truck drivers who work in the "dead zone" around the troubled Chornobyl nuclear power plant staged a similar protest in Kyiv. The Ukrainian Energy Ministry said it would like to pay the drivers but has no money to do so.

Chornobyl to remain closed until 1998

(RFE/RL)—Officials at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant said cracks in the piping in one of the reactors will keep the plant closed until sometime in 1998, Interfax reported on Oct. 16. That reactor, the only one to have operated in the last several years, was shut off in June for maintenance, during which the cracks were discovered. Chornobyl managers denied Kyiv press reports that workers at the plant have been subject to excessive levels of radiation as a result of the cracks. Ukraine has pledged to close the plant by the year 2000 if foreign governments provide sufficient funds to build an alternative power facility.

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Від погроз на Одещині перейшли до вбивств фермерів

Ігор Столяров

(Прес–центр «Південь»)—На Одещині схоже вже звикли до чисельних, останнім часом, нарад які проводяться з ініціятиви обласної державної адміністрації і присвячені питанням розвитку сільського господарства в області. Саме тут губернатор Одещини частенько не забуває наголосити на тому, що саме Одеська область є сьогодні серед тих де активно розвиваються фермерські господарства.

Звіти звітами, але цифри що наводяться не завжди відображають реального стану справ. Тим часом не розповідають статистичні дані і про ті перевіряння, які випадають на долю тих, хто вирішив залишити колишні колгоспи (тепер – Колективні сільськогосподарські підприємства) та власними силами самостійно обробляти землю одержуючи від неї значний прибуток. Сьогодні фермерів не лякають ані величезні податки, ані спротив з боку місцевого владного керівництва.

На Одещині маємо прецендент. 29 вересня близько дев'ятої години вечора, в селі Лужайково, Балтського району, на помешкання Івана та Ольги Топорів вдерлися невідомі. Ольгу Топор було застрілено одразу, над Іваном Топором ще зловесно познущалися, а потім звиряче вбили. Ольга та Іван Топор були керівниками місцевого фермерського господарства «Декусар»...

Назва згаданого фермерського господарства не є випадковою. Іван Топор був чоловіком Ольги – а вона донькою відомого на Одещині фермера, Голови Пужайківської сільської Ради Андрія Декусара.

Перепетіям трагічної події була присвячена прес–конференція, що була проведена 9 жовтня у приміщенні обласної громадсько–політичної газети «Чорноморські новини». Перед журналістами виступив та відповів на чисельні запитання сам Декусар, — людина відома завдяки чисельним публікаціям в місцевій пресі та судовим процесам за власне право бути справжнім фермером.

Тернистий шлях Андрія Декусара ще від 1989 року, коли він вирішив відкрити власне фермерське господарство. Справи пішли на добре і тепер в Пужайковому, Балтського району діє Фермерський банк, який приймає гроші на зберігання, дає кредити. Отож, все як належить... Може саме позитивний досвід фермера Декусара став результатом того, що сьогодні в одному лише селі Пужайково працює понад 200 фермерів — це більше чим в Балтському та двох навколишніх районах разом взятих.

Схоже ситуація виглядає так, що там де існує успіх реформаторської справи знайдуться і ті хто перешкоджатиме їй, хто буде робити все аби справи у фермерів йшли принаймі мляво. Декусар назвав на прес–конференції противників фермерства. За його словами: «Сьогодні в Балтському районі райдержадміністрація не є справжнім представництвом Президента України, яке б впроваджувало в дію видані Укази, вона перешкоджає фермерському рухові».

Не кращим чином поводять себе і місцеві правоохорнні органи. На шляху Декусара як фермера і чимало крадіжок «невідомими» його власності, і погроз позбавити його життя.

Районна Балтська преса розгорнула справжню кампанію цькування справи фермера.

Декусар неодноразово розповідав про це у Заявах та Зверненнях на адресу державних керівників України та правоохоронних органах. В останьому Зверненні на ім'я Генерального прокурора України Декусар писав: «в разі якщо мене таки вб'ють, справу започатковану мною доведуть до завершення мої рідні, злодіїв таки буде покарано...»

Сьогодні пан Декусар шкодує що написав такі слова, адже саме вони можуть бути однією з причин скоєння злочину. На його думку — скоєння вбивства в селі Пужайково є справжнім викликом фермерському рухові на Одещині, а тому слід докласти всі наявні зусилля аби відшукати виконавця та замовника злочину. Щоправда, мало вірить Декусар в спроможність правоохоронних органів Балтського району довести справу до реального успішного завершення. Такі його сумні думки не є безпідставними.

Дивно, але незважаючи на те, що вбивство родини фермерів в селі Пужайково, привернуло значну увагу засобів масової інформації — ні обласне ні районне владне керівництво не висловили Декусару співчуття з приводу трагічної смерті рідних. А може сталося це тому, що факти переслідувань фермерів на Одещині стали вже своєрідною сумною традицією...

Оглядач газети «Чорноморські новини» Віра Семенченко розповіла мені, що в Любашівському районі у складних умовах працює і фермер Михайло Страшок. «Конфлікт там переріс у жахливі події. Коли троє місцевих фермерів вийшли засівати власну землю на них було вчинено справжній напад. За фермерами гонявся колгоспний трактор... В результаті — двоє фермерів відмовилися від започаткованої справи, але Страшок через арбітражний суд продовжує боротьбу на право займатися фермерством. Минулого літа Страшок навіть три дні перебував у в'язниці внаслідок необгрунтованого звинувачення у насильницькому захопленні колгоспної землі».

На прес–конференції Декусара чимало говорилося і про наступні вибори. Згадувалася та дезінформація яку поширювали різного гатунку засоби масової інформації обласного та районного рівнів проти Декусара. Але люди не повірили, його обрали Головою Пужайківської сільської Ради. Вірять люди і в те, що Декусар продовжить боротьбу за фермерство, за розвиток власного села Пужайково, Балтського району, що на Одещині.

В Одесі засновано Товариство «Україна–Австралія»

(Прес–центр «Південь»)—Товариство «Україна–Австралія» засноване в Одесі 1–го липня 1996 року має за мету встановлення прямих ділових дружніх професійних стосунків між вищими навчальними закладами, школами, лікувальними закладами, бібліотеками, радіо, телебаченням двох країн а також розвитку співробітництва з питань збереження і розвитку національної української культури на спільну користь України і Австралії.

Як повідомила завідуюча відділом україністики Одеської обласної державної наукової бібліотеки ім. Горького — «Товариство Україна–Австралія плянує встановити обмін наукової і методичної літературою з проблем історії України, розробити наукову тематику курсових, дипломних і дисертаційних робіт, організувати обмін вчених з читанням спецкурсів і обмін студентами вищих учбових закладів Одеси та університетів міста Ньюкастл».

Вже тепер товариством надіслано листи до всіх вищих навчальних закладів Одеси.

З Інституту післядипломної освіти до Товариства надійшов лист де мовиться про те, що в інституті вже було підготовлено і захищено дві дипломні роботи під науковим керівництвом проф. Світлани Дмитрієвої. Відзначились студентка Віра Стиркова, назва дипломної роботи якої є: «Фінансова система Австралії», та студентка Ольга Гершович з дипломною роботою під заголовком: «Правова система Австралії». Ці дипломні роботи незабаром буде направлено до Українознавчих студій Ав–стралії.

В Інституті післядипломної освіти на відділенні психології значна кількість студентів виявила зацікавлення до спецкурсу який включено до навчальної програми «Особливості менталітету українців в Австралії». Четверо студентів виконали курсові та дипломні роботи пов'язані з життям української діяспори в Австралії. Назва робіт: «Громадські та політичні об'єднання українців в Австралії», «Жіночий рух Українців в Австралії», «Система освіти в українській діяспорі», «Роль української мови в формуванні національної свідомості молоді діяспори». Ці роботи буде передано до постійнодіючої виставки «Українців в світі» при Одеській обласній державній науковій бібліотеці ім. Горького.

Українські енергетики шукають гроші для закупки російського ядерного палива

(КБУВ)—Наступного року Росія припиняє поставку палива для реакторів українських атомних електростанцій, яку здійснювала згідно з міжурядовими домовленостями в порядку компенсації за вивезену з України атомну зброю.

Тепер для забезпечення потреб в атомному паливі українським енергетикам треба додатково вишукати 350 млн. долярів. Особливою проблемою це обернеться Запорізькій атомній електростанції, на яку припадатиме майже половина майбутніх витрат.

Financial experts warn of hryvnia crash

By Ron Synovitz

(RFE/RL)—International financial analysts are warning their clients about the likelihood of currency crashes in Ukraine, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Romania, Russia and Poland.

The international securities firm Deutsche Morgan Grenfell has published a report that creates a new statistical method to measure currency risks in Eastern Europe. The report says Ukraine and Romania are the most likely to experience a month-to-month currency devaluation of at least 15 percent within the next year. It says there are moderate risks of a 15 percent depreciation in Slovakia, Russia and the Czech Republic.

It is in Kyiv that alarm bells are being sounded the loudest. Trading of the hryvnia has been kept within a fixed range (eds. note: 1.7 to 1.9 hryvnia per USD) since April. In the aftermath of hyper inflation, the government has praised itself for this record. It says currency stabilization has been a major achievement of President Leonid Kuchma's administration.

But analysts note that Ukraine's central bank was forced to intervene in the foreign market last month after the supply of dollars at Kyiv's main exchange was nearly exhausted. By loaning US$185 million to the finance ministry, the central bank also violated Ukraine's agreement with the International Monetary Fund. That has further raised speculation of an impending currency crash.

Jurgen Conrad, an analyst with Deutsche bank Research, told RFE/RL that Ukraine's fixed exchange rate regime needs to be changed soon to lessen the risk of a crash. He says the government should announce the implementation of a currency corridor for next year, which would allow the currency more flexibility within preset limits.

Economic upturn expected next year

(Eastern Economist)—The situation in Ukraine's economy remains complex but some positive signs have emerged recently, said Economy Minister Viktor Suslov.

Gross Domestic Product for the first nine months of 1997 fell by five per cent if compared to the same period of 1996. Nevertheless, Suslov noted that the fall in industrial production has slowed down.

A positive sign is that production volumes in machine-building, metal-processing and food industry enterprises have grown. At the same time, production in oil processing industry is still falling, since the sector lacks a stable supply of raw materials. In the first nine months of 1997, Ukraine's oil processing plants received 9.1 million tons of oil, a quarter of which was Ukrainian.

According to Suslov, 72.8 per cent of the annual volumes of excise payments were received by the budget as of Oct. 1. Income from personal income tax equaled 70.2 per cent of annual volumes.

Revenue from overseas trading activities brought in 0.5 billion hryvnia, 75 per cent of the expected total for 1997.

Suslov stressed that during the January to September period, the share of barter operations in the economy rose from 32 per cent to 39.2 per cent.

The energy, fuel, chemical, and oil sectors saw the biggest increases in barter operations. Presidential Economic Advisor Anatoliy Halchynskiy told EE that GDP is expected to rise by a modest 0.5 per cent in 1998. Industrial production is expected to rise by 0.8 per cent in 1998. Halchynskiy asserted that "1999 will be the year of real economic growth and stability in the manufacturing sector."

The Cabinet understands that the only way to provide stable economic growth and take the country out of economic crisis is by developing the agricultural sector, said National Agency for Reconstruction and Development head Roman Shpek Oct. 14. He confirmed the Cabinet is "constantly searching for new sources of funding."

An agreement was signed between Ukraine and the World Bank on providing Ukraine with a loan, one of the tranches of which is aimed at restructuring agriculture.

According to Shpek, the Cabinet is now studying the possibility of implementing a USAID project on providing the private sector with American credits totaling US$250 million to buy agricultural equipment.

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Hryhorenko posthumously awarded for human rights activism

(Ukrinform/UkrNews)—General Petro Hryhorenko, one of the former Soviet Union's most dedicated foes and tireless champions of human rights, has been posthumously awarded the Order for Gallantry.

The award was presented to the late general's son, Andriy Hryhorenko, by Presidential Administration Office Head Yevhen Kushnaryov at a ceremony in Kyiv Oct. 17, the day the late general would have turned 90.

Speaking at the ceremony, People's Deputy Pavlo Movchan suggested that the day be marked every year to commemorate the celebrated human rights champion and victim of totalitarianism. A proposal was aired to name one of the Kharkiv streets, where General Hryhorenko once resided, after him.

One of Hryhorenko's major causes was the plight of Crimean Tatars who had been deported by Joseph Stalin during World War II.

New UN representative appointed

(InfoBank)—On Oct. 20, President Leonid Kuchma Volodymyr Yelchenko, the former head of international organizations department at the Foreign Ministry, as Ukraine's new representative to the United Nations.

Yelchenko takes over from Anatoliy Zlenko, who was earlier moved over to Paris to become Ukraine's Ambassador to France.

Yelchenko, 38, majored in international relations at Kyiv State University. In the late 1980's - early 1990's he worked for Ukraine's UN mission.

In 1992-1993, Yelchenko served as head of the Foreign Ministry international organizations department. In 1993, he was a civil observer with UN peace-keeping force in former Yugoslavia.

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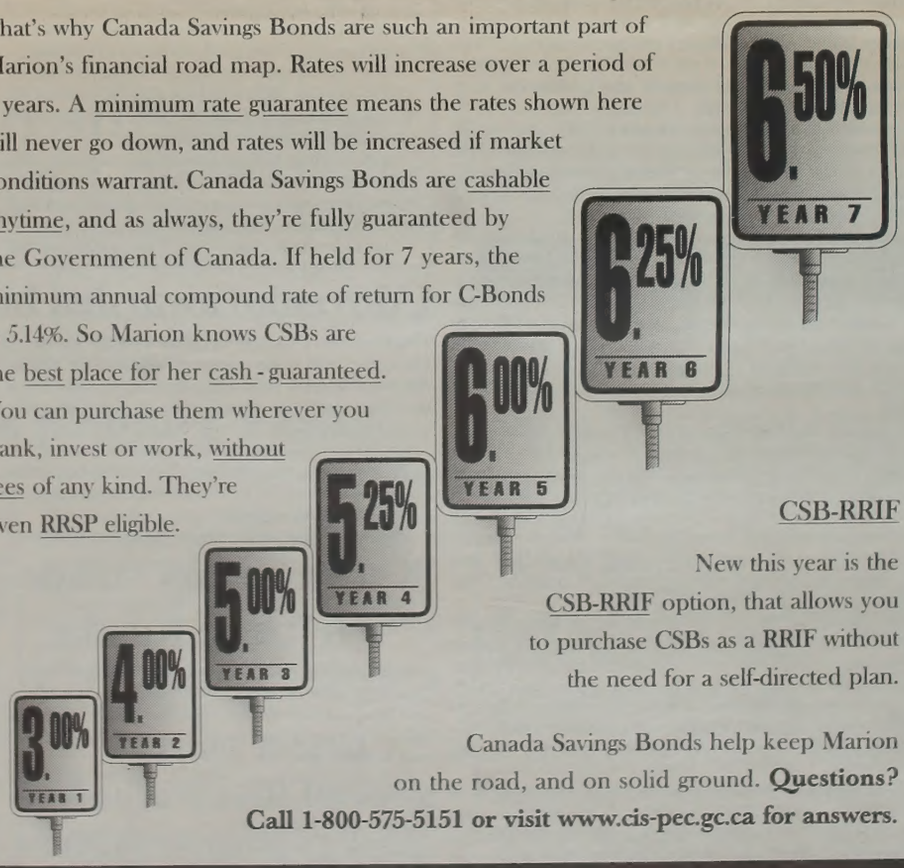

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Українські Вісті видає дво–тижнево *Едмонтон Лайзергрефикс, Відділ Кенейдієн Криптикс Лтд.* під контрактом із видавцями *Українські Вісті Лтд.* Річна передплата $30.00. Всі права застережені. Не можна репродукувати ніяких матеріялів без писаного дозволу видавця. Опінії висловлені в статтях не все відповідають опінії власника, видавця чи редакційної ради.

Georgia, Ukraine criticize Russia's role in CIS

By Jan De Weydenthal

(RFE/RL) - Georgia and Ukraine on Oct. 14 went public with harsh criticism of Russia's dominant role in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), setting a stage for a possibly contentious upcoming summit of the group's leaders.

Speaking on a nation-wide radio program, Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze blamed Russia for the CIS' ineffectiveness and said that Georgia may turn to other partners in search for a more fruitful cooperation.

Shevardnadze said that the CIS has proved to be of little value to his country, largely because of Russia's restrictive policies. "Virtually none of numerous CIS resolutions has been implemented," Shevardnadze said, adding that "We must consider whether Russia's policy here is competitive and attractive enough for us." Moreover, Shevardnadze announced that "Georgia decided not to take part in some of the (integrative, Russian-proposed CIS) projects," deeming them to be harmful to Georgia's national interests.

Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma was equally dismissive of Russia's role in the CIS. Addressing a group of Kazakh journalists, Kuchma said in televised remarks that, while all CIS members could be "blamed to some degree for the fact that the CIS has turned into such an amorphous organization, most of all Russia itself is at fault."

Kuchma also said — without mentioning Russia by name but clearly hinting that he had Moscow on his mind — that "an attempt was made through this organization to solve one's internal programs in a unilateral fashion." He went on to say that "this created a feeling of inner resistance in all of us," and continued that, "we did not feel equal, as the countries in the European Union do, large or small. This feeling has forced the leaders of all the countries to approach cautiously the problems and issues that were discussed."

Kuchma's giving the European Union as an example of a cooperative international organization has corresponded to Kyiv's long standing policy orientation. Ukraine has made consistent efforts, during the last few years, to develop ties with Western political, economic and military organizations, seeing them as vital to the country's national interests, if not the preservation of its national identity.

In August, Ukraine hosted an international military exercise, SeaBreeze 97, which brought U.S. ships and troops to the Crimean coast. Oct. 14, the flagship of the U.S. Navy's Mediterranean (Sixth) Fleet sailed into the Crimean port of Yalta for a three-day visit. Both events have testified to developing cooperative relations between Ukraine and the West.

Established in December 1991, following the demise of the Soviet Union, the CIS is still trying to define its role. Its fundamental problem is that Russia is too powerful to be just another member. Most other CIS members are clearly concerned Russia would use the organization to maintain influence and control over them. They are, therefore, reluctant to do anything lest Russia should dominate them.

Shevardnadze's and Kuchma's remarks illustrate this feeling. It does not augur well for the Chisinau summit.

Centre, right, must unite

Changes to Ukraine's election law may create a parliament where the leftists forces may be more numerous than they are even now and in fact — may even have a working majority.

This would not be so bad if Ukraine's leftists were social democrats like the reformed ex-communists of Poland and Hungary. But they are not. Ukraine's unreconstructed dinosaurs want nothing less than a return to the old totalitarian system. The first thing a communist dominated parliament in Ukraine would do is call for a union with Russia and totalitarian Belarus, which serves as a shining example of what happens when unreformed communists return to power.

This potential communist majority may not and probably will not be reflective of the majority of the Ukrainian population. Instead, due to the changes in the election law, communists will elect a number of deputies which will be far in excess of their actual proportion of the vote. And the centre and right forces will only have themselves to blame.

First, only half of the 450 deputies will be elected in single-member constituencies. And here the key change is that successful candidates no longer need to win a majority of the votes with runoffs held between the top two contenders if no majority is forthcoming on the first ballot. Instead it will be a simple first-past-the post system as we have here in Canada. What this means is that with the large number of centre and right parties beginning to register for the campaign, you may find a large number of communists slipping up the middle because the anti-communist vote is so divided.

The other 225 deputies will be elected nationally from party lists. But, in order to qualify for representation, a party must attain a four per cent threshold. Seats will be distributed proportionately only among those parties that pass that barrier. According to the most recent polls the only party aside from the leftist bloc that is likely to pass that threshold is Rukh. But because a large amount of votes will be cast for parties who don't pass the threshold — and therefore don't count — the number of seats Rukh may get will be minimal when compared with the combined totals the Communists, Socialists and Agrarians are likely to receive.

Among centrists groups we already see several parties being formed. Former President Leonid Kravchuk and former Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk have just started their own party. Another former prime minister, Pavlo Lazarenko has his own group. Supporters of President Leonid Kuchma constitute the Popular Democratic Party. Then there are the Liberals and the Civil Congress, both of whom are regionally based. How many of these will pass the four per cent threshold in such a crowded field?

Then we have at least three different groupings from what used to be the Democratic Bloc. First there is Rukh, then the Reform and Order group headed by former Deputy Prime Minister of Economics Victor Pynzenyk and centred around the parliamentary Reforms faction. Third there is the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists. Maybe, but only maybe, the Reform group may pass threshold in addition to Rukh. But CUN is unlikely to do so because, despite what its leaders say, the party has little support east of the Zbruch River and Halychyna itself constitutes only 10 per cent of the population of the country as a whole. If anything, these three groups should forget their personal differences and unite in a common cause.

With six months to go before the election, there is still time for the centre and right forces to unite. And unite they should. Because if they don't the communists will be the winners and the real losers will be the people of Ukraine.

Ukrainians skeptical about CIS future

(RFE/RL/Eastern Economist)—Several Ukrainian political analysts have expressed skepticism that the CIS has any meaningful future.

In a discussion on the upcoming Chisinau summit, the Kyiv analytic bulletin "Spivdruzhnist" said on Oct. 21 that "for the first time there is a situation in the CIS where Russia could be in the minority in wanting deeper integration." The weekly added that "Boris Yeltsin will have only two more or less reliable allies at the summit, Armenia and Tajikistan."

Other Ukrainian commentators suggested that the CIS should nonetheless be kept alive "at least for the Soviet generations, which still cannot get over the shock of the Soviet Union collapsing."

A day earlier, Mykola Doroshenko, a senior official in the presidential administration, said that Kyiv hopes the summit will resolve trade problems within the CIS, Interfax- Ukraine reported.

But Doroshenko noted that Kyiv is not satisfied with many provisions of the documents drafted for that meeting.

He also criticized the emergence of the four-member customs union and said Ukraine will participate in the summit not as an associate member but only as one of the co-founders of the CIS.

"Ukraine never joined the CIS, either as a full or associate member" since it had not signed the Commonwealth Agreement, he added.

Doroshenko noted that Ukraine "does not view the CIS as an international organization, but only as a regional structure which provides a mechanism for inter-governmental consultations between presidents, premiers and foreign ministers."

Meanwhile, Mikhail Shmakov, the leader of the Russian independent trade union federation, told Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma that he hoped "integration ties" between Russia and Ukraine will be revived, ITAR-TASS reported on Oct. 20.

Udovenko awarded honourary degree in US

(Ukrinform)—Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, who is the current president of the United Nations General Assembly, has been awarded a honourary doctorate degree by Bridgeport University in the United States.

Addressing participants at the award ceremony, the University's president, Richard Rubinstein, noted that Ukraine and its people have finally achieved independence after a long struggle.

He said Ukraine showed the world the civilized way of building a nation.

It was disclosed at the ceremony that the governor of Connecticut declared Oct. 6 Hennadiy Udovenko Day.

In his address, Udovenko said he considered the conferment of the degree on him as yet another recognition of independent Ukraine's immense contribution to efforts aimed at achieving world peace and stability.

He spoke about the activities of the 52nd Session of the UN General Assembly, the major aspects of Ukraine's foreign policy, and the progress of social, political, and economic reforms in Ukraine.

Kuchma fears "trade war" with Russia

(RFE/RL)—Speaking to a conference of trade union leaders in Kyiv on Oct. 21, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said bilateral talks with Moscow have failed to prevent a "trade war" between the two countries, Interfax reported.

He said that as a result, bilateral trade fell by 18 per cent in the first eight months of 1997, compared with the same period last year.

In particular, Kuchma criticized Russia's imposition of a 25 per cent tariff on Ukrainian sugar.

But the Ukrainian leader suggested Kyiv "is close to finalizing its transitional period" in economic reform.

Other Ukrainian officials, however, were less optimistic.

Oleksandr Ryabchenko, the head of the parliamentary privatization committee, said on Oct. 21 that revenues from privatization are far short of projections and will certainly fail to reach the "planned level of 500 million hryvnia" (C$371 million) by the end of the year, Ukrainian media reported.

Sevastopol wants compensation from BSF

(Eastern Economist)—A decision confirming ownership rights of the territorial community of the city of Sevastopol on land temporarily occupied by military bases, organizations and institutions belonging to the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol was approved by the city council Oct. 10.

The resolution was approved aiming at bringing land policies in Sevastopol in line with Ukraine's land legislation and providing constitutional rights to Sevastopol's population.

The session also approved a request to address the Cabinet to develop and implement a mechanism by which Sevastopol would be compensated for the loss of funds by the city in the form of rent payments which are currently being received by the fleet for use of land.

Rada amends election law

(JF Monitor)—The Ukrainian parliament on Oct. 15 amended the law on parliamentary elections, which it had adopted on September 24.

Acting in response to President Leonid Kuchma's observations and reservations to the law, the parliament adopted 12 of the changes proposed by the president and rejected three of them. The main changes include:

• Eliminating the requirement of a 50 percent minimum turnout for a valid election.

• Declaring the first-past-the-post candidate the winner in single-mandate constituencies, irrespective of the size of that candidate's plurality. Kuchma had favored requiring a minimum of 25 percent of the votes cast.

• Removing the requirement that parliamentary deputies — and by implication the candidates — must speak the Ukrainian language. Kuchma had rejected this stipulation as unconstitutional.

• Enabling the president to nominate the members of the Central Electoral Commission for consideration by parliament, and authorizing the 15-member CEC to elect its chairman, vice-chairmen, and secretary. The law as initially adopted had reserved these powers for parliament, potentially handing the left a lever against the presidential camp in the election.

• Authorizing "work collectives" (in addition to parties and public-political associations) to nominate candidates in single-mandate constituencies.

No changes were proposed or made to the basic concept of the "mixed" majoritarian-proportional system, envisaging the election of 225 deputies in single-mandate constituencies and another 225 on country-wide party or bloc slates, with a four per cent threshold required for a party or bloc to gain parliamentary representation. Adopted by a large margin, the changes virtually guarantee that there will be no need for repeat elections or runoffs, thus ensuring the election of a parliament irrespective of voter apathy.

The easy consensus on eliminating the Ukrainian language qualification reflects the competition among all camps for the votes of eastern Ukraine. The election is due in March and the campaign is de facto already in full swing even before the formal kick-off.

Bill to change local election rules

(InfoBank)—Oct. 16, Parliament passed first reading of a new bill on the elections of local council deputies and the heads of village and town councils.

The bill, initiated by Roman Bezsmertny, President Leonid Kuchma's representative in Parliament, provides for differing election systems for various councils.

The election system and the numerical strength of a consecutive council is to be determined by a preceding council. This article proved the most controversial, with many deputies insisting on using a uniform election system for all the local councils.

Under the bill, election of deputies to village, small town (population below 100,000), and district city councils will be based on a first-past-the-post system.

Elections to city councils (with population over 100,000) must be held either under a plurality voting system or under a 50/50 plurality/proportional system.

In line with the bill, candidates to local councils are to be nominated by local councils, local branches of political parties and non-government organizations, as well as voters meetings.

Under the bill, local elections are to be held concurrently with parliamentary elections.

Pynzenyk elected chairman of new party

(Eastern Economist)—Former Deputy Prime Minister and co-founder of the Reform and Order party Victor Pynzenyk was elected its chairman at the party's founding convention.

In his key-note speech Pynzenyk stressed that his party will demand the imposition of clear and permanent legislation for domestic businesses and foreign investors.

He confirmed that one of the party's aims is the removal of obstacles for foreign investment, tax reform and deregulation of the economy.

The tax reform package initiated by him during his time as deputy prime minister will form the nucleus of tax reform proposed by the party.

He confirmed the creation of a reliable banking system as one of the priorities of his party's economic program. He described the present "open door" import policy as ruinous.

Drug use causes AIDS increase

(Ukrinform)—The number of officially registered HIV cases in Ukraine stood at 24,300, as of Sept. 1, says the chairman of the National Committee for fighting addiction and AIDS in Ukraine.

Speaking at a press conference in Kyiv, Oct. 17, Valeriy Ivasiuk said the number tends to increase by between 1,000 and 1,500 HIV cases every month.

He noted that the spread of AIDS in Ukraine is be linked to drug addition, as almost 90 percent of registered HIV cases in Ukraine are caused by intravenous drug injections

According to Ivasiuk the number of people who regularly use drugs has increased to almost 700,000 over the past two years.

These who are chiefly aged between their teens and late twenties and predominantly reside in Ukraine's industrially more developed regions, such as the Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Donetsk and Kyiv Regions.

Power problems plague Ukraine

(RFE/RL)—A cracked pipeline recently shut down another nuclear power plant, Ukrainian media reported. Operators at the Zaporizhska nuclear power plant took that step after discovering a leak.

Ukraine is also suffering from a shortage of natural gas, ITAR-TASS reported on Oct. 17. Ukrgazprom no longer has any reserves and hopes to draw from state reserves.

Meanwhile, unidentified thieves drilled a hole in the Druzhba pipeline near the village of Suskovo in Ukraine's Transcarpathian region, ITAR-TASS reported on Oct. 18.

The pipeline burst and several tons of oil flowed into a tributary of the River Uzh, which marks a large stretch of the Ukrainian-Slovak border.

It is the third incident this year in which attempts have been made to tap the pipeline that carries oil from Russia to Western Europe.

Last executions in March, Kuchma says

(Eastern Economist)—Attending the Council of Europe summit of heads of state in Strasbourg, President Leonid Kuchma told the head of its Parliamentary Assembly Leni Fischer that "not a single execution has been carried out in Ukraine since March 1997."

He qualified this statement by saying that he was unable to abolish the death penalty single-handedly, since a Supreme Council decision was required.

Kuchma introduced a draft law Oct. 11 to the parliament on ratification of Protocol No. 6 to the convention on protection of human rights and freedoms which concerns abolishment of the capital punishment.

Ukraine signed this document May 5, 1997 in Strasbourg.

Former forced labourers visit Bavaria

(Ukrinform)—A group of former Ukrainian inmates of Nazi labour camps have paid a week-long visit to Bavaria, reports Ukraine's General Consulate in Munich. The former inmates met with representatives of public organizations and Munich's Ober-Burgomaster Christian Ude. Ude noted that there were over 100,000 labour camp inmates in Munich during the second world war. He apologized on behalf of the enterprises that used forced labour The meeting was also attended by Ukraine's Consul-General in Munich Hryhoriy Khoruzhyi, who described the bitter ordeals of former labour camp inmates.

Borzov joins Rukh

(Ukrinform)—Former Sports Minister and current head of Ukraine's National Olympic Committee Valeriy Borzov announced he has joined the Rukh party, Ukrinform reported Oct. 8.

Borzov, winner of two gold medals in men's sprint events at the 1972 Olympics, said Rukh is the only political party he trusts in, and predicted that the movement's strength will continue growing as many new members, who are experienced in politics, are joining it.

Congratulating Borzov on the occasion, Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil said he was glad to see the world's fastest Ukrainian joining the Rukh team.

Asked whether he would run for parliament, Borzov said this could not be ruled out, if the party so desires.

CUN prepares for election

(Ukrinform)—The Congress of the Ukrainian Nationalists held its third all-Ukrainian Convention in Kyiv, Oct. 11.

Congress leader Yaroslava Stetsko stated the party, founded in 1992, has expanded its structure to all Ukrainian regions and is ready to overcome the four per cent threshold necessary for parliamentary representation.

Speakers at the convention stated that, so far, power in Ukraine is in the hands of post-communist groups, and called for the nomination of people with high national awareness to governmental posts.

People's Deputy Mykhailo Ratyshny noted that the convention was being held within the framework of the Election Law, thus can be considered the launch of CUN's election campaign.

The Congress ticket, approved by the convention, includes 125 candidates.

Kuchma still leads in trust

(Eastern Economist)—According to a Socis-Gallup sociological research undertaken in September, 50 per cent of Ukrainian citizens fully or partially trust President Kuchma, while 43 per cent do not.

The rest failed to answer the question.

During September, 1,200 people aged 16 and older were surveyed in all Ukrainian oblasts.

Almost 30 per cent of respondents trust Speaker Oleksandr Moroz, and 21 per cent trust former Prime Minister and now People's Deputy Yevhen Marchuk.

Lazarenko gathers support

(InfoBank)—EVIS clothing company manager Volodymyr Zaplotynsky will head the city branch organization of Hromada.

He was elected at the founding meeting of the Hromada city branch on Oct. 15.

The meeting was attended by Hromada chairman and former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko. Zaplotynsky, a popular political figure in the city, was runner-up at the recent mayoral elections in Mykolayiv.

Lazarenko also met with the management of the Mykolayiv Alumina plant and some other city companies.

He came to Mykolayiv following his visit to Donetsk where he also held a promotional meeting to canvass support for Hromada.

Newsbriefs

Kravchuk, Marchuk join forces

(JF Monitor)—Ukraine's former President, Leonid Kravchuk and former Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk have joined forces with each other and with the United Social-Democrat Party in a potentially strong challenge to President Leonid Kuchma's camp. At the USDP's congress over the Oct. 18-19 weekend, Kravchuk and Marchuk accepted the two top slots on that party's slate for the upcoming parliamentary elections. Marchuk had been wooed by the recently dismissed prime minister, Pavlo Lazarenko, who has embarked on an inflammatory electoral campaign.

Ukraine fifth in arms exports

(RFE/RL)—The AvtoKraz factory in Kremenchuk will sell 600 military trucks to India starting next year, Interfax-Ukraine reported on Oct. 16. The deal is valued at some US$24 million. Ukraine is now the world's fifth-largest arms exporter.

Holovaty may be charged

(Eastern Economist)—Deputy Viktor Shyshkin confirmed Oct. 8 that the prosecutor's general office is now studying the possibility of filing a criminal suit against former Justice Minister Serhiy Holovatiy. He is said to have abused high ranking officials in statements made by Holovatiy at a press conference Sept. 11. He accused high ranking representatives of the executive power branch, including the president, of intentionally blocking real implementation of the Clean Hands anti-corruption program.

PM, unions agree to cooperate

(Eastern Economist)—Prime Minister Valeriy Pustovoitenko and the head of the Trade Union Federation Oleksandr Stoyan signed a general tariff agreement Oct. 18 on social partnership between the trade unions and the Cabinet for 1998. The agreement makes provision for cooperation as well as preparation of the law on unemployment and implementing new ways of paying salaries.

Newsbriefs

Criminal groups becoming politicized

(Eastern Economist)—Interior Minister Yuriy Kravchenko says that criminal groups are becoming politicized. He said that criminal structures were often created under the patronage of politicians and that they could have an adverse impact on the political and economic life of Ukraine. Kravchenko confirmed that the Interior Ministry detained 34 hit-men and solved 112 contract-killings in 1997.

Another tax inspector shot dead

(Eastern Economist)—Chief Tax Administration Inspector Nina Borysenko for the Kakhovka region was shot dead Oct. 13. According to oblast tax administration deputy head Tetiana Riashyntseva this is the third murder of a tax inspector in Ukraine.

Rada rejects Lytvak

(JF Monitor)The Ukrainian parliament on Oct. 9 turned down President Leonid Kuchma's nomination of Oleh Lytvak as prosecutor general. The nomination received 212 votes in the 450-seat chamber. Lytvak is currently acting prosecutor general. He has had a reputation for fighting corruption since working on the investigation and prosecution of the "Uzbek cotton affair" in the 1980s. Corruption is a major political issue in Ukraine. This vote marked Kuchma's second defeat in parliament within two days.

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Ukraine reducing Russian oil imports in favour of Kazakhstan

(JF Monitor/Eastern Economist)—Ukraine will import 5 million tons of oil from Kazakhstan in 1998, more than double the 2.3 million tons contracted for in 1997. Kyiv announced the agreement Oct. 16 upon President Leonid Kuchma's return from Central Asia.

Earlier that week, Ukraine's Oil and Gas State Committee announced that Kazakhstani oil deliveries to Ukraine had already reached 2.5 million tons in January-August 1997, well above the planned level and up 31 percent over the same period last year. Conversely, Russian oil deliveries to Ukraine in January-August 1997 dropped to 3.5 million tons, down 35.5 percent from the same period last year.

Ukraine's means of payment for the extra Kazakhstani oil will include: agricultural products, steel pipes for the expansion of Kazakhstan's internal oil and gas distribution networks, and inputs in the planned Caspian-Europe transit corridor via the South Caucasus and Ukraine.

Kuchma and his Kazakh counterpart, Nursultan Nazarbaev, have further agreed to ask Russian president Boris Yeltsin to increase Kazakhstan's annual transit quota through Russian pipelines in order to accommodate the growing deliveries of Kazakhstani oil to Ukraine.

Therein lies one potential obstacles to Kyiv's and Almaty's plan. Russian oil officials, speaking on background, promptly called for limiting Kazakhstan's transit quota "because increased oil exports from former Soviet republics would adversely affect the international market price of Russian crude."

This economic argument will likely add to Moscow's political reasons for withholding cooperation. Ukraine seeks to diversify its energy imports primarily in order to reduce Russian political leverage.

During the Oct. 15-16 visit, three tax agreements were also signed.

They include agreements to remove double taxation, tax evasion and assistance and cooperation in enforcing tax legislation.

As well agreement was reached on the further participation of Ukrainian companies in the modernization and construction of projects in Kazakhstan's energy sector and on increasing exports of mineral fertilizers and pharmaceuticals to Ukraine.

Another agreement was for Ukrainian specialists to participate in a tender on the construction of a pipeline which will transport 9 million tons of oil per year from Kazakhstan to China. Ukraine also agreed to purchase 5 million tons of oil.

Both sides expect a substantial increase in bilateral trade

Rada orders investigation of Cabinet

(Eastern Economist)—Following the Cabinet report on appropriations of the 1996 budget, deputies ordered the Prosecutor General's Office Oct. 9, to launch an inquiry into alleged misappropriation of the 1996 budget.

It will also focus on violation of tax legislation, the groundless granting of benefits to commercial companies and the granting of credits at the expense of budgetary money. Persons found guilty of these crimes are to be charged with criminal offenses. The inquiry must be completed by Dec. 1.

Parliament accused the Cabinet of misappropriating 700 million hryvnia (C$525 million) from state budget funds as a result of clearing debts owed by AT UkrGazProm, the Treasury and the State Committee for material reserves.

Deputies also accuse the Cabinet of exceeding the reserve fund approved by the Cabinet, without the Rada's permission.

Newsbriefs

Ukraine establishes NATO mission

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine and Hungary on Oct. 8 became the first non-NATO countries to establish missions accredited to the Western alliance, ITAR-TASS reported. Ukrainian Ambassador Boris Tarasiuk presented his credentials to NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana during a meeting of the alliance council on Oct. 8. In his presentation speech, Tarasiuk reaffirmed Ukraine's desire for gradual integration into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.

Statue of Virgin Mary reinstalled

(Eastern Economist)—The blessing of a statue of the Virgin Mary took place in Lviv Oct. 14. There were ministers from all Christian faiths present in the crowd which numbered 5,000. The significance of the event is in the fact that the statue was removed at the beginning of 1950. The city council agreed to the statue's mounting last year, although the new statue is not the original one, but a copy. Technical reasons prevented the original one from being mounted.

SPF crackdown brings results

(Eastern Economist)—The Prosecutor General's office finished inspection of the State Property Fund on its use of non-budgetary funds in the form of credits. The inspection resulted in "criminal charges being filed against the SPF for violation of financial discipline," said acting Prosecutor General Oleh Lytvak Oct. 8. He confirmed that similar violations were found during inspections in Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia Oblast and Kyiv. In total, 89 criminal cases were filed as a result of violations in the use of non-budgetary funds.

Nigeria accuses Ukraine

(JF Monitor)—A Nigerian military spokesman on Oct. 21 said that the military junta in Sierra Leone had ordered three jet fighters from Ukraine. He also repeated an earlier charge that Ukrainian ships are supplying the junta in defiance of a United Nations economic embargo. Nigeria leads a West African peacekeeping force in Sierra Leone.

Railways refuse defense ministry

(RFE/RL)—The railways are refusing to transport Defense Ministry freight and passengers until the government pays what the ministry owes for past services, ITAR-TASS reported on Oct. 19. The railways' decision has blocked delivery of basic necessities to military bases and may create chaos when some 100,000 draftees are discharged from the service and sent home.

Officers brush up on history

(Ukrinform)—Seventy officers of the Kyiv Military Garrison, who are in charge of personnel education, held a two-week course in Ukrainian studies aimed at improving their knowledge of Ukrainian history. The course was jointly sponsored by the international association "Ukraine and the World Community," the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's Educational Agency, the US Coordinating Committee for aiding Ukraine, and the Ukrainian enlightenment society "Znannya" ("Knowledge").

U.S. group to redefine goals

(Eastern Economist)—The Washington Group, an influential US-Ukrainian community group held its 1997 Leadership Conference at Georgetown University. It focused on the need for the Ukrainian diaspora in the US to re-define its purposes and halt the decline in membership of ethnic associations. One solution may be to learn from other diaspora groups and focus on religious history and culture, as well as commercial success

Ukrainian Arts and Education Awards Available

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) at Grant MacEwan Community College is calling for applications for three awards in the categories of writing, video arts, and visual and folk art.
The application deadline is November 30, 1997. Application forms and guidelines are available from URDC. Award winners will be annouced in the spring of 1998.

- **The William and Mary Kostash Award for Film and Video Arts ($500)** is given annually to a novice writer for a work promoting Ukrainian Canadian identity through a visual medium. All genres of film or video are acceptable.

- **The Anna Pidruchney Award for New Writers ($500)** is given annually to a novice writer for a work on a Ukrainian Canadian theme. All literary genres are acceptable. Submissions for this year's award must be in Ukrainian.

- **The Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts (ACUA) Award ($500)** is available annually for a project which fosters a greater awareness of Ukrainian art in Alberta. This project may be in the form of an exhibit, tour, festival, educational program, or special project.

For more information, write: **Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre, Grant MacEwan Community College, P.O. Box 1796, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2P2 or Phone (403) 497-4374; Fax (403) 497-4377.**

PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW

Members of the Ukrainian National Army Song and Dance Compnay perform the finale during the Edmonton concert.

Ukrainian Armed Forces deliver majestic performance

Review by Marco Levytsky

Edmonton's Northern Jubilee Auditorium resounded with the majestic sound of the Ukrainian National Army Song and Dance Company as the 85-member troupe performed before a packed house, Oct. 6.

This was but one of the 21 stops the company made during their Canadian tour which lasted from Sept. 14 to Oct. 10.

They also performed in Ottawa, Oshawa, Kingston, London, Windsor, Hamilton, Toronto, Kitchener, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Brandon, Yorkton, Saskatoon, Regina, Calgary, Victoria, Kelowna and Vancouver before heading on to the United States. A scheduled performance in Lethbridge was cancelled because of inadequate facilities.

Everywhere they delighted audiences with their rich vocals and instrumentation in a dance and music spectacle.

Particularly impressive were the numerous soloists who competed with each other in seeing how long each could hold a note. Another entertaining highlight was the whistler who added a lighthearted feature to the musical feast.

Opening with the national anthems of both Canada and Ukraine, the company performed a mixed repertoire of military (mostly cossack) songs and traditional pieces. Among some of the numbers performed were "The Dnipro Roars", "Young Female Neighbour", "A Cossack Rides Beyond the Danube", "Oak Tree" and "A Cossack goes off to War" from the Opera "Bohdan Khmelnytsky. This was augmented by the performances of the dancers, under the direction of Chief Ballet Master Wolodymyr Shmahun, who too mixed military with traditional numbers.

All three branches of the military, army navy and air force were represented.

Curiously enough, the program also listed two Sich Sharpshooter songs ("Red Kalyna" and "I See the Selo"), but these were dropped from the performance repertoire. This omission is rather striking as the fact it was the two pieces dating from the 1917 freedom struggle which were dropped led many observers to wonder what was the reasoning behind this move.

Nonetheless, the two-hour concert was a stirring event replete with colour, energy and exquisite vocal arrangements which brought out the beauty and joy of Ukrainian music.

The company performed several encores including the Italian "O Sole Mio", Suziria's "Love Ukraine" and the popular "Luche bulo ne liubyty".

The men's choir was led by conductor Serhiy Malyovany and accompanied by an orchestra conducted by Mykola Huralnik. The company's srtistic director is Col. Wolodymyr Zibrow.

The two-hour concert was a stirring event replete with colour, energy and exquisite vocal arrangements which brought out the beauty and joy of Ukrainian music.

PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW

Soloist delivers a stirring encore.

Newsbriefs

Britain thanks Ukrainians for condolences

(Ukrinform)—The British Embassy in Kyiv has passed a message of thanks to the Ukrainian people from the Prince of Wales and his sons William and Harry for the numerous condolences Ukrainians offered on Princess Diana's tragic death.

Varyah could be sold for scrap

(Eastern Economist)—Prime Minister Valeriy Pustovoitenko ordered the Industrial Policy Ministry Oct. 20 to look into the possibility of dividing the unfinished Varyah aircraft carrier and selling it as scrap. It will be more profitable to sell the carrier as scrap metal. The price of scrap metal is US$85 per ton.

UN payments cut sought

(Eastern Economist)—Ukraine's United Nations representative Anatoliy Zlenko told a briefing in Kyiv, "just like the US, Ukraine is seeking a reduction in payments to the UN budget." According to Zlenko, Kyiv supports Germany and Japan in becoming permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Trade increase pledged

(RFE/RL)—Meeting in Bishkek on Oct. 15, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev said their countries will increase the volume of bilateral trade at least tenfold in 1998, ITAR-TASS reported. Total turnover between the two countries so far this year is less than $6 million.

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PHOTO — CORNELL KOZOWAY

Father Rendy Yakimec cuts the ribbon opening the new $1.8 million Cultural centre at St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Calgary. Behind him is Arhbishop Metropolitan Michael Bzdel.

New $1.8 M cultural centre opened at St. Stephen's

Jocelyn Grosse and Douglas Briggs

The moment you enter St. Stephen's Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic Church in Calgary you sense its spirit. It is like poetry — reflected in wise elderly faces, curious children, and watchful parents. Joyful choir music fills the air. People join is song.

That special spirit of St. Stephen's has made it one of the fastest growing parishes in Alberta, which has created a problem that most parishes would envy — overcrowding.

The key to the popularity of St. Stephen's is its huge number of children. It is not unusual for the pastor, Father Rendy Yackimec to compete with two-year olds for attention in his prayers, his readings, his sermons.

Thirty-four year old Ron Josephs, his wife Trish, and their three children, Andrew, 6, Kathryn, 4, and two and a half year old Nicholas sit in the front pew. "I'm proud of my heritage and I encourage my kids to do the same," Ron Josephs explains. St. Stephen's is family worship, community and Ukrainian culture.

"There's a strong heritage within the church itself," Josephs says. "There's not a separation thing, there's three generations of continuous attendance."

St. Stephen's has grown to 340 families from a mere 25 when it was granted parish status 29 years ago. On Sept. 27 and 28, the church celebrated a milestone as it opens its $1.8 million cultural centre, complete with a 350-seat dining room and attached kitchen, four classrooms, a boardroom, church offices and a residence for its pastor Father Rendy Yackimec. The parish was also honoured with the presence of Metropolitan Michael Bzdel, Metropolitan for all Ukrainian Catholics in Canada, Bishop Lawrence Huculak, Eparchy of Edmonton and Bishop Paul O'Byrne, Calgary Diocese.

"Father Rendy" as he is known, believes that St. Stephen's is so popular because it is a homing beacon for people who are spiritually hungry and searching for a piece of their Ukrainian cultural identity.

Many point to Father Rendy himself as the best drawing card for St. Stephen's. "I think Father Rendy definitely has something to do with this church being different," says Deanne Vagan, a young church-going mother. "He's very flexible, he's open-minded." Vagan appreciates his down-to-earth sermons — something practical she and her family can take use to carry them through their week.

"I'm proud of my heritage and I encourage my kids to do the same," Ron Josephs explains. St. Stephen's is family worship, community and Ukrainian culture.

Good news spreads. Like satisfied customers, parishioners tell others about their experiences at St. Stephen's. Although strong on Ukrainian culture, English is spoke at two of three liturgies. "There are a lot of mixed marriages in our church which helps make this a warm parish" explains Father Rendy. "It's important that everyone understands the service."

The Ukrainian Byzantine tradition is ever present at St. Stephen's: the burning of incense, icons hovering above the worshippers, Ukrainian hymns. Age-old traditions are preserved during holidays like Easter and Christmas. Parishioner Ron Josephs takes comfort in his Ukrainian rite. He reflects, "People like stability in times of turmoil."

St. Stephen's popularity has presented challenges too, particularly in its cultural activities. "We were looking for something to bring the community together even more," explains Father Rendy. "The whole motion started for the children." It started with the installation of a handicapped washroom; that unleashed the talents, creativity and dedication of the community. The campaign, "For Our Children", set out to raise money by selling bricks for $300 each.

Parishioners helped cut financial corners by building the residence for Father Rendy. "Several parishioners helped out with supplies and residents helped with the painting," Father Rendy says.

The focus on youth spilled over to the building and planning committees — sprinkled with generous trust. Four out of six original planning committee members were in their early thirties. "It encourages the younger generation to get involved," says Ron Josephs.

Choir member Pat Siroishka points to the bonds

PHOTO — CORNELL KOZOWAY

Joint Choir Performance by members of St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Catholic, St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Choirs and the Korinnya Ukrainian Folk Choir.

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New cultural centre opened

between generations. "I think a lot of it is attitude," Siroishka says. There are so many unsung heroes, people of the community, they work hard for the good of all."

The multi-purpose cultural centre has an exciting future ahead. It could become a polling station on election night or the scene of an old-fashioned Ukrainian wedding. Father Rendy is quick to add that programs such as Ukrainian dance and language lessons are open to everyone.

The multi-purpose cultural centre has an exciting future ahead. It could become a polling station on election night or the scene of an old-fashioned Ukrainian wedding.

Families in the surrounding Glamorgan community know about the monthly "Pyrohy Night" sponsored by the "Plus 50" Club — always a sell-out.

As part of the weekend celebrations the bishop also blessed the ornate collection of stained glass windows in the sanctuary. One frame, the Mother of God, has been selected by Canada Post for a Christmas stamp.

On the opposite wall is a mosaic, an image of Jesus surrounded by children. The tiny tiles magically arranged tell a story of love and compassion. Every Sunday as people symbolically touching part of their spiritual and cultural heritage of St. Stephen's.

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UCCLA welcomes Reform statement on internment

(UCCLA/UkrNews)—The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) has welcomed a statement made in the House of Commons Oct. 10 by Inky Mark, Reform Party member for the riding of Dauphin-Swan River in Manitoba.

Rising in the House of Commons, Mark said:

"The richness of Ukrainian culture displayed annually at Canada's National Ukrainian Festival in my riding of Dauphin-Swan River stands in sharp contrast to the injustice done to thousands of innocent Ukrainian Canadians during Canada's national internment operations of 1914 to 1920.

"When war broke out these hard working men, women, and children were categorized as 'enemy aliens', imprisoned, their property confiscated, and their basic rights and freedoms removed. 5000 Ukrainians were interned in 24 concentration camps across Canada.

"From the late 1980s, Ukrainian Canadians sought acknowledgement from the Government of Canada of a wrong, and restitution of wealth confiscated from internees that still remains in federal coffers.

"Despite efforts in 1991 by the Member from Kingston and the Islands (Peter Milliken), the situation remains unchanged. I ask all honourable Members to join me in bringing justice and closure to this regrettable event in our nation's history."

Borys Sydoruk, director of special projects for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) commented that Mark's statement, particularly his call for an all-party effort to right this historical injustice, "is welcome proof of his Party's interest in resolving our community's claims in an honourable and timely fashion."

"We applaud his statesmanship in calling upon Mr. Chretien, the Prime Minister of Canada, to honour his written promise to support our calls for acknowledgement and restitution, a promise also made by the Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney. We've been waiting patiently for Ottawa to make good on the promise we've heard, especially since our proposal would not cost the taxpayers of Canada one red cent," added Sydoruk.

Mark also displayed a hand-written registry from the Spirit Lake Internment Camp at Spirit Lake, Quebec, which contains the names of 257 Ukrainians interned as "enemy aliens". The registry includes the names of two survivors, Mary Hasket (nee Manko) and Stefania Mielniczuk, who were born in Montreal. Nearly all evidence of the internment camps, including all registries except this one, was destroyed by the Canadian Government.

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Bilingual Program opens new year

To the chorus of "Mnohaya Lita", students from the Ukrainian Bilingual Program of Edmonton and Sherwood Park Catholic Schools present Bishop Laurence Huculak with a bouquet of sunflowers in honor of his first School Opening Liturgy for the Ukrainian Bilingual Program. The liturgy took place on September 26 at St. Basil's Parish. Presenters from left to right are Jonathan Hlus, Joyanne Rudiak and Julian Savaryn.

Св. Літургією відкрито новий шкільний рік

26-го вересня, в церкві св. Василія Великого відбулася торжественна св. літургія в якій участували усі учні й вчителі Української католицької двомовної програми Едмонтону і Шервуд Парку. З Владикою Лаврентієм Гуцуляком співслужили літургію отці едмонтонської епархії: о. Тиркало, ЧСВВ парох св. Василія, о. Войціховський, координатор релігійних програм католицької навчальної системи Едмонтону, о. мітрат Мартиник, генеральний вікарій о. Гупало, о. Боднар, о. Литвин, та диякон Шипловський. Також в лавках з дітьми брав участь о. Древрий.

Літургія почалася процесією учнів середньої школи св. Кевина. Понад 600 учнів двомовної програми чудово відспівали Літургію. Співом вели учительки Лілея Волянська та Ірина Тарнавська. Представники школи о. Остин О'браєн відспівали апостола а прохальні ектенії розпочали учні школи Архиєпископа Йордана, та школи Жан Ваніє.

Єпископ Лаврентій, у своїй проповіді, заохочував дітей пильно вивчати свою мову, плекати українську культуру, та любити свою церкву. Єпископ також привітав і поблагословив вчителів та адміністраторів, хвалячи їхню посвяту і відданість у вихованні української дітвори. Заключуючи проповідь, Владика згадував молодь в Україні та прохав молитов в їхньому наміренню.

Малята з початкових шкіл св. Матея, св. Мартина, і школи отця Кенет Керниз, привітали Владику та вручили букет осінних соняшників, з нагоди його першої участи у шкільній літургії. На кінець заспівали кир Лаврентієві многолітствіє.

Організаційний комітет в складі Тараса Подільського (голова), Лілеї Волянської, Ірини Тарнавської, Бояна Яровенка, дякує шкільним радникам та адміністраторам за їхню присутність і підтримку.

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Міжнародня Асамблея Франкомовних Парляментаристів нагороджує українця

В днях від 14 до 16 вересня ц.р. Міжнародня Асамблея Франкомовних Парляментаристів, яка охоплює 57 парляментів (федеральних та провінційних) з 49 країн світу, відбула свою п'ятнадцяту регіональну сесію країн американського континенту. Гостями тієї сесії, яка проходила в приміщеннях Онтарійського Парляменту була онтарійська секція М.А.Ф.П., якої основноположником та головою був Юрій Шимко, кол. федеральний та провінційний депутат та бувший президент Світового Конгресу Вільних Українців.

На урочистому бенкеті для делегатів 16-го вересня в готелі Sutton Place відзначено Юрія Шимка найвищим орденом цієї міжнародньої організації, «Офіцером Ордену Плеяди» (Officier de L'Ordre de la PIOiade). Разом із Шимком, серед одержувачів цієї відмінної міжнародньої нагороди були колишній Прем'єр Онтаріо, дост. Боб Рей, кол. Спікер Онтарійського Парляменту, Дейвид Ворнер, кол. Генеральний Прокурор та сучасний голова Верховного Суду Онтаріо, Рой Макмертрі, та перший канадський космонавт, Марк Гарно.

«Орден Плеяди» заслуговують ті особи, які відзначались своєю виїмковою відданістю на міжнародній мережі служити ідеалам співробітництва та дружби Міжнародньої Асамблеї Франкомовних Парляментаристів, яка була заснована тридцять років тому 18 травня 1967 р. Люксамбурзі.

Шимко був Головою та основноположником Онтарійської секції М.А.Ф.П., Канадським делегатом 12-ої Асамблеї в Дакарі, Сенегалі та був обраний членом Секретаріяту, який міститься в Парижі.

Проживши дитинство з батьками як післявоєнний біженець в Бельгії, Шимко плинно володіє французькою мовою. В перше в історії провінції Онтаріо він регулярно виступав в дебатах провінційного парляменту французькою мовою, вимагаючи офіційний переклад сесійних дебатів на французьку мову включно з телепередачами. Він був дійсно борцем в захисті інтересів франкомовного населення Онтаріо та Канади.

Завдяки його старань уряд провінції Онтаріо прийняв низку законів, які надали офіційний статус франкомовній меншості в районах їх скупчення в шкільництві, судівництві, та ряді інших державних послуг.

У своєму слові подяки, Шимко пригадав делегатам, які сьогодні виконують обов'язки обраних депутатів парляменту про їх важливу роль захисників демократії, зокрема в Канаді де народ Квебеку має право рішати своє майбутнє лише демократичним волевиявленням народу шляхом провінційного референдуму — ніколи накиненням все-канадського референдуму, як це деякі пропонують.

Він згадав, що це питання було порушене ним ще 19 років тому коли він був обраний депутатом федерального парляменту 16-го жовтня 1978 р.

Під час дебати про провінційний закон, який визнав французьку мову єдиною офіційною мовою Квебеку, Шимко пригадав свойому суперникові, тодійшньому міністрові закордонних справ та депутатові з виборчої округи в Нюфандленді, що так як його провінція з'єдналась з Канадою 1949 р. шляхом провінційного референдуму, так само Квебек має право колись відділитись від Канади, якщо таке рішення прийме більшість його населення через референдум.

Шимко замітив, що кінець 20-го століття відмічується деволюцією централізованих потугдержав про що свідчать радикальні зміни в Центральній та Східній Европі, як також після 300 років в самій Великій Британії. «Незважаючи на те, які наші погляди по питанню єдності Канади», сказав Шимко, «нас повинно всіх єднати питання демократичного права народу Квебеку самим рішати свою власну долю».

У свойому листі до Шимка з 23 вересня, федеральний депутат з Квебеку Клауд Башанд пише: «Поздоровляю Вас ще раз з нагородою Ордена Плеяди, а головно за Вашу відважну промову в захисті демократії».

Пластовий новацький табір «Наш чарівний світ» на Оселі «Барвінок» над Голубним озером після Служби Божої у церкві св. Михаїла. Посередині: Владика Лаврентій.

Пласт відбув літні табори на Оселі «Барвінок»

П. Саварин

Так називалися цьогорчні літні табори новацтва і юнацтва Пластової Станиці в Едмонтоні. Новацький табір відбувся від 30 липня до 9 серпня ц.р., на Оселі «Барвінок» над «Голубним озером» під командою пл. сен. Маріянни Саварин, а юнацький від 8 до 19 липня над «Бобровим озером» біля Лак Ла Биш під командою пл. сен. зв'язкових Люби Бел і Еміліяна Ґроха.

У новацькому таборі взяло участь 42 новачат, 21 новаків і 21 новачка: 14 новаків і 17 новачок з Едмонтону, 4 новаки і 4 новачки з Калгері, і 3 новаки зі Саскатуну. У команді було 22 особи: 17 з Едмонтону, 2 з Калгері, 2 з України і одна зі Саскатуну. Може колись комусь буде цікаво дізнатися, як називались ці новачата, ож подамо їх імена: Зоря Боцюрків, Женя Чорна, Саша Чорна, Ляриса Фарлінгер, Таїса Ганч, Арета Грищук, Катруся Едвардс, Міла Якута, Таня Костюк, Таня Кошарич, Олеся Маркевич, Наталка Мельницька, Даниїла Муринка, Мотруся Саварин, Наталка Семотюк, Тамара Соктикевич, Леся Стефанів, Адріяна Товстюк, Ана Тумін, Тоня Яровенко і Тея Яровенко. А оце новаки: Стефан Боцюрків, Богдан Едвардс, Михайло Фарлінгер, Матей Долішний, Тиміш Горбай, Марко Якута, Стефан Лазурко, Зенон Маркевич, Юліян Нагачевський, Адам Петрів, Максим Петрів, Михайло Пристаєцький, Дем'ян Прокопчук, Омелян Нагачевський, Богдан Саварин, Юліян Саварин, Роман Солтикевич, Роман Сторощук, Андрій Товстюк, Даниїл Тумин, і Марко Тимчак.

Бунчужним був пл. розв. Ярослав Петрів, писарем пл. розв. Маркіяна Ілюк, а санітаркою пл. прия. Галина Лазурко. Братчиками і сестричками (виховниками) були: пл. розв. Харитя Білаш, Лада Шулякевич, Зеня Мартинків, Марко Семотюк, а також пол. сен. Гриць Долішний і ст. пол. Ангелина Кліщ і Аркадій Сльоза з України. Інструкторами були: пл. сен. Олеся Тумин, Марта Фарлінгер, Володимир Горбай, Оля Боцюрків, а також пл. прия. Семен Костюк. У кухні, під керівництвом пл. прия. Дарії Луців (мен'ю приготовив Тарас Боцюрків, пл. сен. (працювали: пл. прия. Оксана Тимчак, Галина Лазурко, Надя Прокопчук і Розанна Муринка, а також пл. сен. Христя Товстюк.

Ukraine to face Croatia in World Cup playoffs

Clinches second spot with 2-0 victory over Armenia

(UkrNews)—Ukraine will face Croatia in the European World Cup playoffs, as a result of the draws held in Zurich, Oct. 13.

Following a 2-0 victory over Armenia in their final Group Nine qualifying match in Yerevan, Oct. 9, Ukraine became one of eight second-place teams which will play a two-leg home and away series. The four winners will advance to the soccer World Cup finals in France next year.

Other playoff contests include Russia against Italy, Ireland and Belgium and Hungary versus Yugoslavia. The matches will be played Oct. 29 and Nov. 15 or 16.

Should the teams split their series, the winner will be determined by aggregate score. In case the aggregate score is the same, the winner will be determined by sudden death overtime.

The nine groups winners who qualified are Denmark, England, Norway, Austria, Bulgaria, Spain, the Netherlands, Romania and Germany. Scotland also qualified as the second-place team with the best record, while host country France had an automatic qualification.

Ukraine faced Croatia during the 1996 European championships, losing 4-1 on aggregate score. They won their home match 1-0, but lost 4-0 in Zagreb. Croatia lost to Germany in the quarter-finals.

However the current team is stronger than the one fielded two years ago. Ukraine took 20 out of a possible 30 in the qualifiers, while Croatia, playing in a five-team division which also included Greece, Bosnia and Slovenia, took 15 out of a possible 24.

"I know Ukraine quite well and have played some of their teams in the past," said Croatia coach Miroslav Blazevic.

"Of course, the teams have changed since I saw them but I know the way they play —they are very strong."

After a disappointing home match in which Armenia scored late in the game to tie Ukraine 1-1, the blue- and yellow squad was up for this must win. A draw would have left them in third place behind Portugal.

Andriy Shevchenko opened the scoring in the 31st minute, taking advantage of a perfect cross by Vitaliy Kosovsky from the left.

Yuriy Maximov added the second 13 minutes into the second half with a powerful shot from 10 metres which St Petersburg goalkeeper Roman Berezovsky had no chance of saving.

The Armenians never really troubled Ukraine goalkeeper Olexander Shovkovsky and just played out the match when they were reduced to 10 men after Karabek Mikaelyan was sent off in the 71st minute.

Sports/Спорт

European World Cup Qualifiers

Group nine final standings

	GP	W	T	L	GF	A	Pts
Germany	10	6	4	0	23	9	22
Ukraine	**10**	**6**	**2**	**2**	**10**	**6**	**20**
Portugal	10	5	4	1	12	4	19
Armenia	10	1	5	4	8	17	8
N. Ireland	10	1	4	5	6	10	7
Albania	10	1	1	8	7	20	4

Germany qualify, Ukraine to playoff Croatia

Group one final standings

Denmark	8	5	2	1	14	6	17
Croatia	8	4	3	1	17	12	15
Greece	8	4	2	2	11	4	14
Bosnia	8	3	0	5	9	14	9
Slovenia	8	0	1	7	5	20	1

Denmark qualify, Croatia to playoff Ukraine

Sports Briefs

Serebryanskaya to miss worlds

Atlanta Olympics rhythmic gymnastics gold medallist Yekaterina Serebryanskaya will miss the October world championships because her mother is ill, reported Reuters citing the Interfax-Ukraine news agency Oct. 18. Her mother — also her coach — Lyudmila would have accompanied Serebryanskaya to the October 23-26 world championships in Berlin. Serebryanskaya blamed the illness on a bitter division within Ukraine's gymnastics federation.

Under-21's finish second in group

(UkrNews)—Andriy Holovko scored the only goal of the match as Ukraine edged Armenia 1-0 in Gumri, Armenia, in the European Championship Under-21 qualifiers, Oct. 10. With the win, Ukraine ended up in second place behind Germany in Group Nine.

Hontchar takes silver

Ukraine's Serhiy Hontchar took the silver medal in men's time trial at the world road race cycling championships in San Sebastian, Spain, Oct. 9. The race was won by Laurent Jalabert of France and the bronze went to Britain's Chris Boardman.

Ukrainians reach quarter finals

Ukrainians Valeriy Sidorenko and Volodymyr Kolesnik made it to the quarter finals of the world boxing championships in Budapest, Oct 22, but no further. Sidorenko lost to Bulgaria's Daniel Petrov 54-44 on tiebreak in the light-flyweight (48 kg) category after the initial fight ended in a 9-9 tie. Kolesnik lost 8-2 to Utumen Tumentsetseg of Mongolia in the lightweight (60 kg) category.

Ukrainian Premier Soccer Division
Standings October 12, 1997

	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pt
Dnipro, Dnipropetrovsk	13	10	1	2	30	8	31
Dynamo, Kyiv	12	9	1	2	26	5	28
Shakhtar, Donetsk	13	9	1	3	25	12	28
Karpaty, Lviv	15	8	3	4	13	12	27
Vorskla, Poltava	14	8	1	5	22	23	25
Nyva, Ternopil	14	7	2	5	21	12	23
Metalurh, Donetsk	15	5	6	4	12	12	21
Kryvbas, Kryviy Rih	15	4	6	5	14	13	18
Metalurh, Zaporizhia	13	4	5	4	20	19	17
Chornomorets, Odesa	15	4	5	6	19	19	17
Tavria, Simferopol	15	5	2	8	18	21	17
Zirka, Nibas	15	5	2	8	16	28	17
CSKA, Borysfen	15	4	4	7	14	16	16
Prykarpatya, Ivano-Frankivsk	15	4	4	7	21	23	16
Metalurh, Mariupol	15	3	4	8	14	31	13
Torpedo, Zaporizhia	14	0	3	11	7	38	3

Українка в Храмі Слави із спорту

Я. Пришляк

Недавно у великій залі будинку Гарт Торонтського університету відбувся Бенкет, в програмі якого було святочне проголошення вибору дев'ятьох найвидатніших атлетів–спортовців за 1997 рік до Храму Слави із спорту. Членів підібрала з–поміж 130 кандидатів спеціяльна Виборча Комісія, зложена із фахівців фізичної культури, представників спортових асоціяцій і кореспондента засобів масової інформації. Критерії для вибору: виявлення особливих здібностей і осягів у змаганнях різних ділянок спорту провінційного, національного і міжнароднього характеру на протязі останніх щонайменше десяти літ, як також осягнення належних академічних успіхів. Такими задовільними кваліфікаціями заслужила на це почесне звання в Храмі Слави українка Юлія Кухарчук, найкраща змагунка жіночої команди відбиванки (волейболу) Торонтського університету, абітурієнтка коледжу св. Михаїла, 1972 р. і педагогічного факультету, 1973 року.

Юлія в часі студій грала протягом 5 сезонів в університетській жіночій команді відбиванки, що трьома наворотами здобула провінційний чемпіонат і була нагороджена срібною медалею. Вона була капітаном Онтарійської команди жіночої відбиванки, володаря золотої медалі на Перших Зимових Канадських Іграх в 1967 році. В роках 1971–74 була капітаном Національної Канадської Команди жіночої відбиванки і змагалася з великими успіхами за Світовий Кубок і на Все–Американських Іграх. Їздила з командою на змагання по різних континентах світу. В 1977–78 рр. її команда виграла срібну медалю Канадського чемпіонату.

Від 1975–88 року, цебто протягом 13 років, Юлія була тренером жіночої команди відбиванки Торонтського університету, яка успішно змагалася у літніх Університядах. Була також тренером Онтарійської хлоп'ячої команди, а останньо тренує мужеську команду відбиванки. Джерелом повищих інформацій про ню є програмка з відбутого Бенкету, накладом факультету фіз–культури Торонтського університету, з короткою нотаткою про її спортову кар'єру, враз із окремою знимкою.

Юлія народилася 8 вересня 1950 року в містечку Горшам, Велика Британія. Це доня–одиначка Романа Кухарчука і Марії з дому Клінцева. Родина прибула до Канади в лютому 1952 р. і замешкала в Торонті. Вже з малку Юлія виявила охоту й здібності до науки та спорту, а зокрема замилування до відбиванки і кошиківки (баскетболу). Національне й релігійне виховання здобула в родинному домі, церкві, українських школах і в лавах Спілки Української Молоді. Закінчила чотирилітню українську народню Свято–Миколаївську школу і п'ятилітні курси школи Українознавства ім. Юрія Липи, здобувши атестат зрілости 1968 року. Приймала активну участь у праці осередку СУМ–у ім. ген. Романа Шухевича–Чупринки в Торонті, починаючи від члена молодшого юнацтва, а кінчаючи виховницею. Була членом Управи цього Осередку. Під її проводом, як капітана, команда відбиванки юначок осередку СУМ–у з Торонта 10 лютого 1968 р. здобула перше місце на цілу Канаду, а 12 квітня 1968 р. перше місце і звання найкращої української жіночої команди відбиванки на північно–американському континенті під час турніру Української спортової Централі Америки й Канади (УСЦАК) в Рочестері, США. Команда відбиванки юначок СУМ–у виступала також в 1969–70 рр. з великим успіхом в міжпровінційних і крайових змаганнях Канади. Під цю пору Юлія є тренером чоловічої команди відбиванки С. Т–ва «Україна» в Торонті.

Юлія одружена з Андрієм Андрухівим, сином покійного визначного суспільно–громадського й політичного діяча проф. Миколи й Евстахії з дому Гафтар, – голови відділу ОЖ ЛВУ в Монтреалі. Вона довголітня учителька середніх канадських шкіл, а останньо школи для дорослих при Шкільній Раді провінції Онтаріо.

За свої видатні спортові осяги Юлія заслуговує на признання, бо це її заслуга, що слава про Україну в пов'язанні з нею лунає на чужині, і напевно ніколи не загине!

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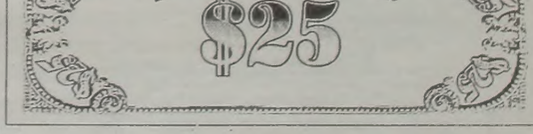

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Pistol maker may supply US police

(Eastern Economist)—The pistol manufacturing arm of the state-owned "Special Technologies" construction bureau has been invited it take part in a tender to supply guns for American police forces. The bureau's head and chief designer Ihor Alekseyenko, confirmed the news, noting that Ukrainian gun manufacturing has reached world standards. The bureau was formed in 1993 and has produced many new weapons. He noted that overall, Ukrainian firearms currently have several advantages over other manufacturers striving to take part in the tender. They require little cleaning, do not recoil and their barrels do not overheat.

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Regina firm establishes Okhtyrca JV with UkrNafta

Business

(UkrNews)—Regina-based Lateral Vector Resources Inc. (LVR) has announced the establishment of Okhtyrca Energy Corporation (Okhtyrca), a Ukrainian closed joint stock company owned 48 per cent by LVR and 52 per cent by UkraNafta.

UkraNafta (which is 60 per cent state owned) is the largest oil producer in Ukraine.

UkraNafta will provide facilities and infrastructure support as well as assisting Okhtyrca with their regulatory and marketing expertise. LVR will be in charge of all technical enhancement operations. The deal is subject to regulatory approval.

Okhtyrca Energy will operate the Buhrevatisky field in Sumy Oblast approximately 60 kilometres north of the city of Kharkiv.

The field was discovered in 1974 reaching peak production of 9,000 Bpd in 1989. The field currently produces 2800 barrels (390 tons) from 66 producing wells. There is an extensive pipeline network and production infrastructure in place.

It has a large reserve base of 235 million barrels of original oil in place with a current recovery of 6.6 per cent. Okhtyrca earns 100 per cent of production over and above that amount

Field operations are expected to commence in the first quarter of 1998.

Vancouver firm acquires interest in South Ukraine oilfield

(UkrNews)—Vancouver-based Odessa Petroleum Corp. has announced that it has successfully re-negotiated the terms of the Assignment Agreement with Tintex Capital Ltd. under which it has acquired 100 percent of Tintex's 80 percent interest in the Bilolessky Block in Southwestern Ukraine.

The original agreement required cash payments in 1998 of US$3,300,000 and a further cash payment in 1999 of $2,400,000. The Agreement has now been re-negotiated to a single cash payment of $500,000 in 1999 and the remaining $5,200,000 is to be paid at a rate of 10 percent of the East Saratska Oil Field's net profits from production after payout of the project investment costs

Todd McMurray, the newly appointed Vice President of Investor Relations for Odessa Petroleum, told Ukrainian News early indications of the field are very positive. During an initial production test the on East Saratska No. 3 Well, located on the Black Sea, 100 kilometres southeast of Odesa, production rates of 450 barrels (65.5 metric tons) per day were achieved.

"If we're successful, we'll be investing upwards of US$30 million into the field," he said.

Odessa Petroleum Corporation has earned an undivided 55 percent working interest (the remaining balance being held by UkrNafta) and may earn up to an 80 percent working interest in the Bilolessky Block, which consists of a 900 square kilometre area.

UkrNafta shareholders reject split

(Eastern Economist)—A meeting of UkrNafta shareholders, Ukraine's largest crude oil producer took place in Kyiv Oct. 8.

Two main issues were on the agenda. The shareholders had to decide on a recent order issued by Prime Minister Valeriy Pustovoitenko to separate UkrNafta's principal producer OkhtyrkaNaftoGas. The second issue was creation of a vertically-integrated oil company which involved adding Kherson and Prykarpattia refineries to UkrNafta along with a group of retailing companies in several oblasts of Ukraine. The two issues contradict each other.

The creation of a vertically-integrated oil company was supported by company employees and former Premier Pavlo Lazarenko before he lost his job. Company employees are reluctant to accept division of the company as it will halve the market value of the company's shares and ultimately will result in cheap buying of UkrNafta shares.

The division required the approval of 75 per cent of shareholders. The government has 61 per cent while the rest is in the hands of private individuals and investment funds.

The Cabinet's resolution of Sept. 3 to remove OkhtyrkaNaftoGas from the structure of UkrNafta and transform it into a floated joint venture failed. Thirty three per cent of the shareholders voted against, prompting a rise in UkrNafta's share price on Oct. 8.

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The Western NIS Enterprise Fund, an early stage venture capital fund, seeks an investment officer to join the investment staff in the Fund's main office in Kyiv, Ukraine. Candidates should have three to five years experience in corporate finance, an MBA or equivalent, and an interest in working with local managers to develop growth strategies for their companies. Responsibilities would include identifying investment prospects, structuring and negotiating transactions, monitoring investments, and recommending exit strategies. Work experience in emerging markets and fluency in Russian or Ukrainian would be advantageous.

The Western NIS Enterprise Fund, capitalized initially with $150 million, invests in small- and medium-sized private enterprises in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. The Fund's strategy is to identify the best companies operating in what are expected to be the fastest growing sectors of these emerging economies. The Fund provides portfolio companies with capital and the necessary management tools to evolve from entrepreneurial ventures to professionally managed companies. The Fund currently has a portfolio of eighteen companies operating in a variety of industries.

Western NIS Enterprise Fund

Interested parties should submit a cover letter and a resume to Harold J. Schroeder, Chief Investment Officer, in New York at (fax) 212-556-9321 or (e-mail) resume@wnisef.org.

Ramco says door still open

(UkrNews)—Scottish-based Ramco Energy says its bid to gain control over JKX Oil and Gas, a smaller British company that has joint ventures in Poltava Oblast and Crimea, fell through because UkrGazprom was unwilling to cooperate with Ramco in moving the venture forward on terms which were mutually acceptable."In the light of these developments, Ramco felt that the acquisition was no longer in the best interests of its shareholders or consistent with its strategy," said Ramco in its 1997 interim report, Oct. 15. "Nevertheless, Ramco has made valuable contacts in Ukraine and the door has been left open for future involvement in alternative projects," the company added.

Business Briefs

Temerty on Council

(UNKB)—Toronto-based Northland Power President James Temerty is the Canadian representative on the 21-member Coordinating Council on Foreign Investments set up by President Leonid Kuchma to ease the difficulties foreign investors have in Ukraine.

Cherkasy next for Big Mac

(Eastern Economist)—A network of McDonald's restaurants will soon be opened in Cherkasy, according to the city's mayor, Volodymyr Oliynyk, who confirmed he recently signed the relevant documents with McDonald's Ukraine General Manager Karl Fritz. Cherkasy will become the fourth city in Ukraine after Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Odesa where Big Mac's will be available.

Citibank to open subsidiary

(Eastern Economist)—Citibank has applied to the National Bank of Ukraine to register its subsidiary bank in Ukraine says the NBU international relations department head Oleh Rybachuk. The subsidiary's statutory fund will total US$25 million. Citibank's board has already approved the opening of the subsidiary. It will become Citibank's 100th subsidiary bank.

Orbit opens under new management

Oct. 4 marked the official opening of Orbit in Edmonton which specializes in the sending of parcels to Ukraine and other services. Orbit is a branch of Toronto-based VIM Pysanka. Guests were greeted by Ukrainian Canadian Congress Edmonton Branch president Olha Savaryn and VIM President Victor Perevozniuk. Pictured above (left to right): K. Brzezicki, Mr. R. Riep, Mrs. R. Riep, V. Perevozniuk, M. Krivoula and A. Medziak.

Ernst & Young, KPMG set to team up in Ukraine

(Eastern Economist)—Ernst & Young and KPMG announced jointly Oct. 21 that they have agreed to combine their practices worldwide into a new firm from early 1998.

As to Ukraine, the combined organization will have more than 100 employees.

In a joint statement, respective partners-in-charge, Max Groen of KPMG, and Rod Grant of Ernst & Young, stated that "combining organizations worldwide will provide us with significantly increased capability to meet our clients' increasingly complex needs."

Regarding combined operations in Ukraine, Green commented that "the combination is truly great for both firms in terms of people and culture in Ukraine and around the world.

The ability to leverage our investment dollars and resources will enable us to develop unprecedented expertise and services in emerging markets."

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Nadvirna shareholders vote against merger

(Eastern Economist)—The shareholders of Nadvirna-based Nafto-Khimik Prykarpattya oil refinery voted against merging with Kalush-based Oriana.

The meeting also decided not to establish a subsidiary company to sell petroleum products.

The Director of NaftoKhimik Prykarpattya Lev Buniy told Infobank that the proposal to merge NaftoKhimik with Oriana "does not have any legal basis and very few economic grounds".

It was Oriana's management who put forward the merger proposal to the government, basing their proposal on the need to guarantee regular supplies of oil to the polyethylene manufacturing plant.

The proposal to create a subsidiary which would sell petroleum products was blocked by a State Property Fund representative. The SPF owns one-third of the statutory fund.

Shareholders also voted against a proposal to merge the refinery with UkrNaftoGaz. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting of refinery shareholders, as the shareholders of UkrNafta AT, the main founder of the proposed vertically integrated company did not support this proposal at their meeting Oct. 8.

Production in the first nine months of 1997 rose 2.1 per cent, compared to the same period in 1996. The first nine months of 1997 saw the refinement of 562,677 tons of oil, most of it produced locally.

Only 13 per cent of the oil was imported from Russia.

Business Briefs

Rada probes bankrupt JV

(Eastern Economist)—The Verkhovna Rada created a temporary investigation committee Oct. 11 for investigating the creation, activities and bankruptcy of the Ukrainian-American joint venture Borshchahivka Pharmaceutical Plant. According to the Rada's Press Service, the committee was created as a result of articles in the Ukrainian and foreign mass media and appeals of US congressmen, the US Ambassador to Ukraine and plant employees to the Ukrainian government. Parliament is to report on the results of this investigation by Oct. 30.

JV stock sale procedure approved

(InfoBank)—Ukraine's State Property Fund has approved the selling procedure for state-owned stakes in joint venture companies. Accordingly, the SPF will have the right to retain no less than a 26 per cent stake of a JV statutory fund. In other cases, a state-owned stake could be sold to co-founders for cash or to lease-holder-formed associations of buyers for cash, compensation and privatization certificates

New UkrGaz board head appointed

(Eastern Economist)—A Cabinet decree appointed Stanislav Slobodian head of UkrGaz's board Oct. 10. A meeting of UkrGaz shareholders Oct. 8 increased the enterprise's authorized capital fund from 13.557 million hryvnia (C$10.178 million) to Hr 203.357 million, due to an increase in the nominal value of shares to Hr 3.75.

Crimea to issue bonds

(Eastern Economist)—The Crimean Council of Ministers has decided to issue domestic bonds to the value of 120 million hryvnia (C$90 million). They will be placed with legal and natural entities, both residents and non-residents of Ukraine. Their maturity is guaranteed by property belonging to the autonomous republic. The bonds will have a maturity term of one year. Monthly income is not fixed but should be at least 70 per cent of the National Bank of Ukraine's discount rate. The issue will be made by the Crimean Ministry of Finance.

Beet shortage halts refineries

(Eastern Economist)—A total of 27 sugar processing plants halted their operations as a result of a shortage of sugar beet. The National Association of Sugar Producers confirmed that 113 sugar refineries of a total of 192, have processed 4.4 million tons of sugar beets, producing 280,000 tons of sugar.

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Ukraine, UK sign new memorandum

(Eastern Economist)—Environment Minister Yuriy Kostenko and British Ambassador Roy Reeve signed a Memorandum on mutual understanding on participation and support of operations at the International Chornobyl Centre, Oct. 21.

Work will focus on problems concerning nuclear safety, radioactive waste and radioactive ecology.

The document was signed on behalf of both countries governments to consolidate and coordinate technical and financial aid provided for Ukraine in the sphere of nuclear and ecological security, and create an effective mechanism with which to fight the consequences of the Chornobyl disaster.

The document stipulates that the governments of Ukraine and United Kingdom will independently set the size of their share in the participation and financial support of the activities to be carried out at the ICC.

Switzerland keen on trade

(Eastern Economist)—After meeting Swiss Economy Department Head Jean-Pascal Delamure, Prime Minister Valeriy Pustovoitenko said that the most promising areas for cooperation between the two countries are in the production of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, introduction of up to date technology in manufacturing, transport and communications.

Inter-governmental agreements were signed dealing with financial and technical cooperation and on financial aid to Ukraine for reducing infant-mortality rates.

Delamure told Economy Minister Suslov, "Switzerland is ready to help Ukraine upgrade its power-generation." Swiss companies are keen to participate in the privatization of energy enterprises.

The Swiss also want to import Ukrainian electricity, the funds from which could be used to modernize the industry.

Iowa pays tribute to Ukrainians

(Eastern Economist)—Ukraine Days started at Iowa University Oct. 21 with the opening of an exhibition to mark the contribution of Ukrainians to the US economy.

A delegation from the National Agrarian University from Kyiv headed by rector Dmytro Melnychuk and representatives of the US Embassy in Ukraine are taking part.

Several Ukrainian scholars gave lectures on the Ukrainian agricultural sector and development prospects.

Talks were held with University management on cooperation and academic exchanges to be sponsored by two USAID grants.

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Newsbriefs

Pension payment promised by year end

(Eastern Economist)—Deputy Labor and Social Policies Minister Olena Horiacha said that pension debts will be paid in full by the end of 1997. She noted that the size of pensions will not likely to be increased this year. However, she added that a mechanism for increasing pensions is being worked on.

50% of funds outside bank sector

(Eastern Economist)—Presidential Coordinating Committee for fighting Corruption and Organized Crime Chairman Vasyl Durdynets told the Supreme Council that over 50 per cent of funds in Ukraine were located outside the banking system. He suggested improvement of banking legislation to strengthen control over movement of funds.

Chornobyl metal may be sold

(RFE/RL)—According to Kyiv's Studio One Plus One television on Oct. 14, Kyiv hopes to attract private capital to pay for the retrieval and sale of thousands of tons of metal now lying in the contaminated zone around the Chornobyl nuclear power plant. The television station did not indicate how the metal would be cleaned or where the funds for the project might come from.

Legislation key to corruption battle

(Eastern Economist)—A successful fight against corruption and the mafia will only be possible once the country's legislative base is improved and all immunity from prosecution is removed, especially for deputies on all levels, said Interior Minister Kravchenko Oct. 14. Kravchenko spoke at a meeting of Khmelnytskiy oblast interior department at which the results of law enforcement agencies for the first nine months of 1997 were discussed. Khmelnytskiy oblast is one of the few oblasts where crime has decreased.

Kuchma makes new appointments

(Eastern Economist)—President Leonid Kuchma appointed former Crimean Prime Minister Arkadiy Demydenko as Ukraine's deputy Transport Minister Oct. 7. Other appointments include Bohdan Butsa as first deputy head of the State Committee for the development of entrepreneurship. The new head of the State Auditing department and deputy Finance Minister is Mykola Kalensky

Civil Congress chooses allies

(Ukrinform)—The Donetsk-based "Civil Congress of Ukraine" Party has started its election campaign. On Oct. 11 the it held a meeting of its coordination council to discuss strategy and seek allies. It chose to align with the Justice Party, with assistance being pledged by the Union of Veterans of Ukraine and the Coal Miners' Trade-Union.

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